

# KILDARE LOCAL AUTHORITIES



## Annual Report 2009

## Foreword

This report is part of the Kildare Local Authorities' account for the stewardship entrusted to them by the people of the county. It is intended as a resource for citizens, and we hope that it will meet their needs and expectations.

The year 2009 was a time of change for town and county councils. Local elections in June saw 118 candidates contest 61 seats in County Kildare (25 on the county council and 9 on each of the town councils of Athy, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge). Local authorities are the only bodies that are elected at county and town level on the basis of a universal democratic franchise, and their members give service to the public by governing their respective councils and representing the cases of individual citizens to councils and other public agencies. Our congratulations go, not only to those who were elected, but to all the candidates who went forward and thereby sustained the civic and political life of the county.

No account of 2009 would be complete if it did not reflect the economic changes that took place during the year. At local authority level, councillors and staff were challenged to maintain public services on reduced budgets. It was with regret that staff had to be laid off, and we want to record our thanks here for the work that they did during their time in the local service. We also thank all the staff who made other sacrifices to sustain services and the councillors who met the challenge of politically difficult decisions in the interests of the community.

While the work of the councils is well-described on the following pages, it is appropriate to mention some significant work and achievements that distinguished 2009:

- Work continued on preparation of the county development plan for 2011-2017 and also on nine local area plans for towns and villages. We welcome the submissions made in relation to these plans by individual citizens and local groups, and we urge people to continue to add their voice to the process of shaping the county's future.
- For the second year running, lendings by the county's public libraries passed the half-million mark and reached 581,645.

- The final link in the M9 was opened in December, completing the motorway development of the national primary routes in the county. These roads, which link the capital with the nation's major urban centres including Sligo, Galway, Ennis, Limerick, Tralee, Cork and Waterford, are a vital part of the support system for the country's commercial life.
- The emergency services of the councils were put to the test during a difficult winter, and they answered the call with commitment and dedication. Staff and civil defence volunteers were called out in November to deal with flooding around the county, and that marked the beginning of very difficult weather conditions which lasted for two months. Again our thanks are due to all who helped alleviate distress and maintain services during this difficult time.

County and town councils have certain duties and functions conferred on them by law; but ultimately their purpose is to serve the public, and they can do that much better with the support of the people of the county. If you have any questions or concerns about local authority services, or if you think that they can do a better job, then why not tell them – their contact details are in the Offices and Opening Hours section of this report.

Good wishes



**Colm Purcell**  
**Mayor**















**Michael Malone**  
**County Manager**








# Membership of Kildare County Council

There are 25 members representing 5 electoral areas – Athy, Celbridge, Clane, Kildare and Naas

		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Richard Daly  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Athy  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 087-6248886</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Martin Miley Jnr  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Athy  <b>Political Party:</b> Fianna Fail  <b>Contact Details:</b> 087-3998478</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Martin Heydon  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Athy  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 087-6262546</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Mark Wall  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Athy  <b>Political Party:</b> The Labour Party  <b>Contact Details:</b> 083-3341488</p>

		<b>Name: Councillor Senan Griffin</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: Fine Gael</b> <b>Contact Details: 01-6285177</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Catherine Murphy</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: Independent</b> <b>Contact Details: 087-2296450</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Kevin Byrne</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: The Labour Party</b> <b>Contact Details: 086-6009449</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor John McGinley</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: The Labour Party</b> <b>Contact Details: 01-6285293</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Paul Kelly</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: Fianna Fail</b> <b>Contact Details: 01-6243624</b>
		<b>Name: Mayor Colm Purcell</b> <b>Electoral Area: Celbridge</b> <b>Political Party: The Labour Party</b> <b>Contact Details: 087-2539493</b>

		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Seamus Langan  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Clane  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 087-2871347</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Liam Doyle  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Clane  <b>Political Party:</b> Fianna Fail  <b>Contact Details:</b> 01-6287629</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Deputy Mayor Brendan Weld  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Clane  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-869340</p>
		<p><b>Name:</b> Councillor Pádraig McEvoy  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Clane  <b>Political Party:</b> Independent  <b>Contact Details:</b> 086-8658262</p>

		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Suzanne Doyle  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> Fianna Fail  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-521046         </p>
		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Francis Browne  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> The Labour Party  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-526934         </p>
		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> Fianna Fail  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-436792         </p>
		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Tony O'Donnell  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 087-9081649         </p>
		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Micheál "Spike" Nolan  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> Fine Gael  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-486881         </p>
		<p> <b>Name:</b> Councillor Paddy Kennedy  <b>Electoral Area:</b> Kildare  <b>Political Party:</b> Independent  <b>Contact Details:</b> 045-433310         </p>

		<b>Name: Councillor Willie Callaghan</b> <b>Electoral Area: Naas</b> <b>Political Party: Fianna Fail</b> <b>Contact Details: 045-875565</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Anthony Lawlor</b> <b>Electoral Area: Naas</b> <b>Political Party: Fine Gael</b> <b>Contact Details: 087-2753942</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Paddy MacNamara</b> <b>Electoral Area: Naas</b> <b>Political Party: The Labour Party</b> <b>Contact Details: 045-896590</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Darren Scully</b> <b>Electoral Area: Naas</b> <b>Political Party: Fine Gael</b> <b>Contact Details: 086-3860955</b>
		<b>Name: Councillor Seamie Moore</b> <b>Electoral Area: Naas</b> <b>Political Party: Independent</b> <b>Contact Details: 087-2497813</b>

## Corporate Management Team



<b>County Manager</b>	<b>Mr Michael Malone</b>
<b>Director of Services for Transportation and Public Safety</b>	<b>Mr Michael O’Leary</b>
<b>Director of Services for Water and Environmental Services</b>	<b>Mr Joe Boland</b>
<b>Director of Services for Planning and Economic Development</b>	<b>Mr John Lahart</b>
<b>Director of Services for Housing, Community and Cultural Services</b>	<b>Mr Peter Minnock</b>
<b>Director of Services for Corporate, Human Resources and ICT</b>	<b>Mr Eamonn O’Sullivan</b>
<b>Head of Financial Services</b>	<b>Mr Thomas Hunter McGowan</b>

# Offices and Opening Hours

## Headquarters

Áras Chill Dara

Devoy Park

Naas

Co Kildare

Telephone: 045-980200

Fax: 045-980240

E-mail: [secretar@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:secretar@kildarecoco.ie)

Website: [www.kildare.ie/countycouncil](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil)

## Opening Hours

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Monday to Friday

Wednesday 9.30 am

## Exceptions

Motor Tax

9.15 am – 3.15 pm

Planning

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Housing

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Finance

9.00 am – 4.30 pm

## 24 Hour

1890 500 333

## Emergency Number

## Fire Service

Emergencies: 999 or 112

Central Fire Station 045-431370

## Library Headquarters

Riverbank, Newbridge

045-431109

## Area Offices

Athy Area Office Rathstewart, Athy

059-8631329

Clane Area Office The Woods, Clane

045-892695

Kildare Area Office Newbridge Industrial Estate

045-437556

Maynooth Area Office Leinster Street, Maynooth

01-6286236

Naas Area Office Áras Chill Dara, Naas

045-980425

## Town Councils

Athy Town Council Rathstewart, Athy

059-8631444

Naas Town Council Áras Chill Dara, Naas

045-980990

Newbridge Town Council Town Hall Newbridge

045-980560

Leixlip Town Council Newtown House, Leixlip

01-6245777

# Membership of Council Committees

## **Affixing of Seal**

All Council Members

## **Twinning Committee**

Cllr Liam Doyle

Cllr Tony O'Donnell

Cllr Anthony Lawlor

Cllr Francis Browne

Cllr Colm Purcell

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

## **Protocol and Procedures Committee**

Cllr Senan Griffin

Cllr Suzanne Doyle

Cllr Tony O'Donnell

Cllr Martin Heydon

Cllr Mark Wall

Cllr Willie Callaghan

Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin

Cllr Kevin Byrne

Cllr John McGinley

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

## **County Development Plan**

### **Steering Group**

Cllr Mark Wall

Cllr Suzanne Doyle

Cllr Brendan Weld

Cllr Catherine Murphy

Cllr Anthony Lawlor

## **Barrow Drainage Board**

Cllr Richard Daly

Cllr Mark Wall

## **Local Traveller**

### **Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Cllr Mark Wall

Cllr Seamus Langan

Cllr John McGinley

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

Cllr Paddy MacNamara

## **Audit Committee**

Cllr John McGinley

Cllr Paul Kelly

Cllr Senan Griffin

## **Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee**

Cllr Seamus Langan

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

Cllr Martin Heydon

Cllr Martin Miley Jnr

Cllr Francis Browne

## **Finance Committee**

Cllr Liam Doyle

Cllr John McGinley

Cllr Martin Heydon

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

Cllr Seamus Moore

## **Burrin Joint Drainage Board**

Cllr Martin Heydon

# Membership of External Bodies

## Vocational Education Committee

Cllr Willie Callaghan  
Cllr Martin Miley  
Cllr Paddy Kennedy  
Cllr John McGinley  
Cllr Francis Browne  
Cllr Brendan Weld  
Cllr Micheál Nolan  
Cllr Richard Daly  
Cllr Martin Heydon

## County Development Board

Mayor (ex-officio member)  
Cllr Suzanne Doyle  
Cllr D Scully  
Cllr Kevin Byrne  
Cllr Micheál Nolan  
Cllr Catherine Murphy

## Mid-East Regional Authority

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy  
Cllr John McGinley  
Cllr Paul Kelly  
Cllr Martin Heydon  
Cllr Micheál Nolan  
Cllr Senan Griffin  
Cllr Francis Browne  
Mayor (ex-officio member of EU Operational Committee)

## Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Cllr Richard Daly

## Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Cllr Richard Daly  
Cllr Martin Heydon

## County Kildare Failte

Cllr Martin Miley  
Cllr Senan Griffin  
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy  
Cllr Micheál Nolan  
Cllr Paddy MacNamara

## Irish Public Bodies

### Mutual Insurance

Cllr Micheál Nolan

## Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Cllr Tony O'Donnell  
Cllr Suzanne Doyle

## County Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Mark Wall  
Cllr Martin Heydon  
Cllr Senan Griffin  
Cllr John McGinley  
Cllr Brendan Weld  
Cllr Seamus Langan  
Cllr Tony O'Donnell  
Cllr Suzanne Doyle  
Cllr Darren Scully  
Cllr Paddy MacNamara  
Cllr Anthony Lawlor  
Cllr Paul Kelly  
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy  
Cllr Colm Purcell (Mayor ex-officio member)

## AthyRhyll Regeneration Project

Cllr Martin Miley  
Cllr Richard Daly

**Association of County & City Councils**

Cllr Colm Purcell  
Cllr Anthony Lawlor  
Cllr Liam Doyle

**Kildare County Enterprise Board**

Cllr Brendan Weld  
Cllr Anthony Lawlor  
Cllr Willie Callaghan  
Cllr Liam Doyle

**Kildare Community Network Company**

Cllr Catherine Murphy  
Cllr Tony O'Donnell  
Cllr Micheál Nolan

**Leixlip Amenities Centre**

Cllr Catherine Murphy  
Cllr Paul Kelly  
Cllr Colm Purcell

**Southern Eastern Regional Assembly**

Cllr John McGinley  
Cllr Senan Griffin

**Regional Drugs Taskforce**

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

**Kildare Heritage Forum**

Cllr Francis Browne  
Cllr Micheál Nolan  
Cllr Seamie Moore

**Board of the Meath Foundation**

Cllr Anthony Lawlor

**South Eastern River Basin  
District Advisory Council**

Cllr Suzanne Doyle  
Cllr Micheál Nolan

**Eastern River Basin District  
Advisory Council**

Cllr Seamus Langan  
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

**Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional  
Health Forum**

Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin  
Cllr Francis Browne  
Cllr Seamus Langan  
Cllr Martin Heydon  
Cllr Paddy Kennedy

**Ballymore Eustace Community  
Liaison Committee**

Cllr Mark Wall  
Cllr Willie Callaghan

**Cill Dara ar Aghaidh Teo**

Cllr Tony O'Donnell  
Cllr Seamie Moore  
Cllr Mark Wall

**Social and Environmental Panel for the  
Midlands District of Coillte Teoranta**

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

**Drehid Landfill Site Community  
Liaison Group**  
Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin  
Cllr Brendan Weld

**Arthurstown Landfill Facility  
Community Liaison Committee**  
Cllr Anthony Lawlor  
Cllr Paddy MacNamara

**Local Authorities Members Association**  
Cllr Senan Griffin

# Strategic Policy Committees – Membership

## Housing

Cllr Suzanne Doyle (Chairperson)  
Cllr Paddy Kennedy  
Cllr Paddy MacNamara  
Cllr Martin Miley Jnr  
Cllr Senan Griffin  
Cllr Ann Breen (Naas T.C.)  
Liam O'Brien (Business Sector)  
Joe Curran (Community/Voluntary)  
Michael Dowling (Trade Union)

## Water and Environmental Services

Cllr Catherine Murphy (Chairperson)  
Cllr Mark Wall  
Cllr Paul Kelly  
Cllr Anthony Lawlor  
Cllr Seamus Langan  
Cllr Shane Fitzgerald (Leixlip T.C.)  
Allan Shine (Business Sector)  
Fiona Tutty (Environment)  
Tom Malone (Agriculture/Farming)

## Community and Culture

Cllr Micheál Nolan (Chairperson)  
Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin  
Cllr Seamie Moore  
Cllr Francis Browne  
Cllr Martin Heydon  
Cllr Ger Dunne (Naas T.C.)  
Sinead Heneghan (Business Sector)  
John Hayden (Community/Voluntary)  
Triona Muldoon (Environment)

## Transportation

Cllr Kevin Byrne (Chairperson)  
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy  
Cllr Colm Purcell  
Cllr Richard Daly  
Cllr Willie Callaghan  
Cllr John Lawler (Athy T.C.)  
Miriam O'Brien (Business Sector)  
James Earle (Community/Voluntary)  
Sean Darcy (Business Sector)

## Planning and Economic Development

Cllr Darren Scully (Chairperson)  
Cllr Tony O'Donnell  
Cllr Liam Doyle  
Cllr Brendan Weld  
Cllr John McGinley  
Cllr Damien Molyneaux (Newbridge T.C.)  
Robert Mehigan (Business Sector)  
David O'Reilly (Business Sector)  
James Cotter (Community/Voluntary)

# Meetings Held During 2009

## 18 Full Council Meetings

- 12 monthly meetings
- 1 budget meeting
- 4 special meetings
- 1 annual meeting

## 52 Area Meetings

- 5 Athy Area Committee meetings
- 12 Clane Area Committee meetings
- 10 Kildare Area Committee meetings
- 12 Celbridge Area Committee meetings
- 3 Leixlip Area Committee meetings
- 10 Naas Area Committee meetings

## 28 Other Meetings

- 4 Finance Committee meetings
- 6 Protocol Committee meetings
- 5 Audit Committee meetings
- 4 Twinning Committee meetings
- 5 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meetings
- 2 County Library Committee meetings
- 2 Water Monitoring Committee meetings

## The following meetings were also held during the year:

- 12 Corporate Policy Group meetings
- 2 Planning and Economic Development SPC meetings
- 3 Water and Environmental Services SPC meetings
- 2 Transportation SPC meetings
- 2 Housing SPC meetings
- 2 Community and Cultural SPC meetings



## Local Elections 2009

European and local elections were held on Friday, 5 June 2009. 54 candidates contested the local elections with 25 members being elected to Kildare County Council representing 5 electoral areas.

In accordance with Section 13 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 as amended, a statement was submitted to the Council by each candidate, setting out their expenses and donations received. The following table sets out the aggregate details of election expenditure in respect of each candidate.

Name of Candidate	Electoral Area	Total Expenses €
Mark Dalton	Athy	6,700.00
Richard Daly		8,994.60
Martin Heydon		8,138.23
Billy Hillis		6,059.49
John Lawler		5,797.73
Martin Miley Jnr		5,210.85
Mark Wall		7,323.69
Kevin Byrne	Celbridge	6,043.52
Ivan Farina		213.50
Brid Feely		10,260.20
Shane Fitzgerald		5,995.00
Senan Griffin		3,560.00
Paul Kelly		7,472.74
John McGinley		5,067.80
Catherine Murphy		3,661.86
Joe Neville		6,113.81
Colm Purcell		5,614.64
Katie Ridge		480.00
Paul Ward		12,597.00

<b>Name of Candidate</b>	<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Total Expenses €</b>
Leo Armstrong	<b>Clane</b>	1,005.00
Rose Devine		4,526.88
Liam Doyle		5,975.00
Daragh Fitzpatrick		10,959.99
David Flanagan		1,720.64
Seamus Langan		4,651.98
Pádraig McEvoy		1,992.05
Jim Reilly		2,398.23
Chris Rowland		5,506.01
P J Sheridan		8,053.73
Brendan Weld		1,050.00
Murty Aspell	<b>Kildare</b>	2,540.00
Pat Black		5,930.56
Francis Browne		3,883.80
Sean Downey		1,709.00
Suzanne Doyle		7,401.95
John Hardt		960.20
Adrian Kane		7,521.78
Paddy Kennedy		10,231.11
Micheál "Spike" Nolan		8,107.08
Tony O'Donnell		4,878.59
Fiona O'Loughlin		4,353.55
Mark Stafford		6,854.75
John Tierney		1,100.00
Willie Callaghan	<b>Naas</b>	6,036.97
Tiernach Cassidy		4,401.93
Donal Corcoran		2,648.30
James Lawless		8,446.39
Anthony Lawlor		9,515.02
Paddy MacNamara		5,653.31
Pat McCarthy		3,462.06
David Monaghan		595.00
Seamie Moore		11,045.88
J J Power		1,230.26
Darren Scully		6,513.90



## Customer Service

The primary service point for Kildare County Council is Áras Chill Dara, which is situated at Devoy Park, Naas. There is also a network of libraries throughout the county, together with five area offices, all of which have extensive customer contact. The Outreach Service Facility has enhanced public accessibility to Kildare County Council information services with 37 display stands located in Comhairle offices, libraries and health centres throughout the county and the information contained on each stand has now been tailored to suit the location and staff within the facilities. Two art competitions were introduced during 2008 through outreach: one for the homework clubs in four of our housing estates and another for primary schools throughout the county.

The Customer Information Desk located in Áras Chill Dara has continued to play a significant part in delivering a higher standard of service to our customers.

A key part of our customer service strategy is the development of our website. Increasingly we are facilitating our customers by improving the means to do business on-line. Examples of this would include motor tax, payments in respect of refuse charges, on-line planning enquiries and GIS and the implementation of ERIC: Emergency Response Information Centre.

The on-line comment card is proving very popular with our customers as the number of queries and comments each week is increasing. These comments help us to check and make changes to the way we do business with and for our customers.

## Accessibility

In accordance with the Disability Act 2005 Kildare Local Authorities has published an Access Implementation Plan detailing access audits completed on local authority buildings, streetscapes and amenities. Funding was received from central government in 2009 and this has enabled works to be done throughout the county.

## Register of Electors

The Council publishes a Register each year of those in the county who are eligible to vote. The register comes into force on 15 February and remains in force until the following 14 February. The 2009/10 Register contained 138,925 names. The basic criterion for eligibility is that the person has reached the age of 18. There are then various categories of voters - Presidential (Irish citizens only), Dáil (Irish and United Kingdom citizens), European (citizens of other countries within the EU) and Local (citizens of non-EU countries). If a person's name does not appear on the register, they may apply up to approximately 17 days before an election or referendum for entry on a supplement to the register.

Also, if due to a long term illness or disability, or the nature of your job means that you spend periods away from home, and, so, may not be able to go to your polling station, you can apply for entry on the postal voters list. Forms for these purposes are available from our office or can be downloaded from the website.

The register is available for inspection in post offices, Garda stations and council offices throughout the county as well as being available electronically at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie). Due to the local and European elections in June and the Lisbon referendum in October 2009, we received a larger number than normal of applications for entry on the supplement. This combined with increased resources for compiling the register, in anticipation of the elections, meant that the number of changes compared with previous years was significantly up. We also engaged in things like mail-shots to housing estates and, particularly, apartment blocks where the numbers registered seemed to be low. The practice of including application forms in welcome packs to new council tenants, planning and higher education application forms continued as did the running of advertisements in local media, both print and radio.



Public apathy in returning completed application forms continues to be a problem but, on the other hand, the downturn in the housing market has made compilation easier as people are not changing residence as frequently and so are more likely to have a longer term attachment to a particular address.

## Higher Education Grant

Due to the economic downturn in 2009 there was a significant increase in the number of applications for Higher Education Grant submitted and the following table is a comparison between the 2008/2009 academic year and the 2009/2010 academic year.

Academic Year	No of new apps received	No of Renewals	No of Grants Issued	No of Refusals Issued/Withdrawls/ Incomplete
2008/2009	662	628	1083	207
2009/2010	857	808	1392	273

As outlined in the table above there was a significant increase in 2009/2010 compared to 2008/2009. A new and more efficient database was installed to deal with the processing of the Higher Education Grant applicants and this has proven to be very effective.

The Higher Education Grant consists of two parts; a maintenance grant, where applicable, and a fees grant that covers the College Registration Fee at undergraduate level. Tuition fees at post graduate level are covered, subject to a maximum fee limit, set annually by the Department of Education and Science.

Grant applicants can do a great deal to help themselves, and have a much improved chance of early payment, by ensuring that application forms are fully completed and that complete details of family income are submitted before the closing date. Submission of incomplete applications will invariably delay the payment of grants to applicants.



Information on the grants is also available online at [www.kildare.ie/countycouncil](http://www.kildare.ie/countycouncil).

The value of grants paid in 2009 was €6.7 million representing:

- A significant contribution to equality of access to education;
- A vote of confidence in students;
- A major investment in the county's economic future.

# Planning Department

## Forward Planning

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan commenced in May 2009. The current plan covers the period 2005 to 2011 but the Planning Act provides for its review to commence two years prior to its expiry. The first phase of the review involved consulting with the public as to what they wanted to see included in their new plan. This was followed by the preparation of a Manager's Report on the submissions received during the public consultation and discussions with the members of the Council. A draft Development Plan was then prepared by the Manager and submitted to the members in February 2010 for their approval. The next stage is the publication of the Draft Plan in April 2010, further consultation with the public, amendments to the Draft Plan if appropriate, further consultation and finally, adoption by the Councillors in April 2011.



Work continued on the preparation and adoption of local area plans (LAPs) for towns and villages in the county in 2009. LAPs were completed for Sallins, Castledermot, Kilcock and Clane and work commenced on LAPs for Leixlip, Celbridge and Collinstown. All LAPs are set within the context of national, regional and local planning policies, including the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area, the National Spatial Strategy and the County Development Plan 2005-2011. We also strive to ensure that all plans accord with the principle of sustainability, facilitate economic and social progress, promote efficient use of land and safeguard the natural and built environment.



The statutory requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 are also adhered to and a specialist interdepartmental SEA team has been established to aid this process. In 2009, work continued on the preparation of SEA's for Leixlip, Celbridge and Collinstown as part of the review process of the LAPs for these areas.

It is intended to complete the review of the remaining LAP's in 2010 – Kildare Town, Rathangan, Newbridge, Maynooth and Kill.

Village Design Statements (VDS) were also prepared for six settlements in 2009 – Ardclough, Brannockstown, Calverstown, Nurney, Staplestown and Robertstown. The first three were noted by the Councillors at their Council meeting in March 2009 while the remaining VDS's will be noted in the near future.

## **Development Management**

### **Planning Applications**

Kildare County Council received a total of 1,464 planning applications during 2009 and of these, 242 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 1,100 decisions to grant and 292 decisions to refuse permission. 128 appeals were confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

Naas Town Council received a total of 98 applications during 2009 and of these, 8 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 86 decisions to grant permission and 10 decisions to refuse permission, 17 appeals were confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

Athy Town Council received a total of 34 applications in 2009 and of these, 4 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 33 decisions to grant permission and 6 decisions to refuse permission. 8 appeals were confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

In order to improve accessibility and the management of historical planning files, the planning department continued a number of projects in 2009 in order to improve the availability of on-line planning information to members of the public.

The planning department also continued the modernisation of its planning systems with the completion of an upgrade to the Local Government Management Services Board I-Plan in 2009, work also commenced on the migration to the Planning and Development Contributions system which links I-Plan to the Agresso financial system.

The Planning department ran an agents meeting in February 2009 at which current planning issues were discussed and addressed, this meeting was attended by over 120 agents. The agents also had an opportunity to raise their concerns with the Planning Authority who took note of same and undertook to deal with these going forward. It is intended to hold a further meeting with the agents in 2010.

### **Pre-Planning Meetings**

Pre-planning meetings are designed to deal with prospective applicants for large-scale residential or commercial developments. In 2009 a total of 108 formal pre-planning meetings were held in-house.

Pre-planning clinics are designed to deal specifically with prospective applicants for a one-off house or small-scale commercial development. A total of 5 pre-planning clinics were held in Aras Chill Dara in 2009, these clinics were attended by 82 prospective applicants.

In addition to the clinics held in Aras Chill Dara, outreach clinics were introduced in the Athy, Clane and Leixlip Area Offices. A total of 15 outreach clinics took place in 2009 which were attended by 94 applicants.

## **Controlling Development**

The Council continued to make progress in the area of taking in charge of residential estates, 9 estates were taken in charge in 2009.

## **Building Control**

523 valid Commencement Notices and 206 valid applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation and regulations in 2009. From the 1 July 2008 all newly built dwelling required a Building Energy Rating (BER) Certificate. From 1 January 2009 the requirement to obtain a BER Certificate was extended to any dwelling offered for sale or rent. Building Control Authorities have an obligation to ensure BER Certificate requirements are being met in their functional area.

In March 2009, the Council wrote to all Auctioneers in the county informing them of the requirement to provide a BER certificate for all dwellings being offered for sale or rent. This was followed up with a number of inspections throughout the year.

Where Commencement Notices were received for 'one-off' houses, the Council has written to the owners informing them of their obligations to obtain a BER Certificate for the dwelling.

## **Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions**

292 complaints of unauthorised development were investigated in 2009. 143 warning letters were issued to developers and 64 enforcement notices were served on unauthorised developments. The Planning Authority initiated legal proceedings in 9 cases.

## Heritage

The following are Heritage projects completed in 2009

- **Kildare Archaeological Sources - Publication**



Kildare Heritage Forum published “Kildare Archaeological Sources” in 2009. This directory was commissioned to provide a practical, comprehensive and user friendly reference book to archaeological source material for County Kildare and was launched in conjunction with the Kildare Archaeological Society.

- **Biodiversity and Development in County Kildare**

Two publications which sought to provide information on biodiversity and development in County Kildare were published in 2009, “Good practice guidelines for developers” and “Good practice guidelines for householders”. Both of these publications were widely distributed.

- **Invasive Species**

Advice was provided on the control of invasive species in County Kildare to members of the public and KCC staff

- **Thermal Springs**

Data was collated on wells and thermal springs in County Kildare in conjunction with NUI Maynooth.

- **Birds in the School Yards Year 5**



Advice was provided to 25 schools in 2009 to assist teachers and public in the identification of birds in the school yard and to encourage awareness of biodiversity. KCC co-sponsored this project with Kildare Education centre.

- **Annual Heritage Week.**

A Heritage Week 2009 brochure was compiled and promoted over 30 events organised by local groups Week.



circulated which during Heritage

- **Support local Community Heritage Initiatives.**

Assistance was provided to a number of community groups who completed heritage initiatives.

- **Newbridge Heritage Trail Project**

A heritage trail has been developed for Newbridge in conjunction with Newbridge Tidy Towns. Phase 1 of this project involving the erection of 6 information plaques at various sites in the town was completed in 2009.

- **Biodiversity Advice to Tidy Towns Groups**

The heritage officer liaised with KELT in the of training for Tidy Towns groups in the management of biodiversity areas in towns villages.



provision  
and

- **Graveyard Recording**

Assistance was provided to the Baconstown Graveyard recording Scheme and the County Kildare Archaeological Society Graveyard recording project.

- **Ballynafagh Lake SAC**



The car park at this Council owned site was renovated and fenced.

## **County Kildare Heritage Plan**

A review of County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2009 was started in 2009 with a view to informing the preparation of a new County Heritage Plan.

## **Architectural Conservation**

The work of the Architectural Conservation Officer was ongoing in 2009 providing technical guidance on the built heritage and in particular protected structures and architectural conservation areas within the county.

As part of the Development Plan reviews, historic building surveys were carried out for the County, Naas and Athy in 2009. Buildings will be recommended to be added to or deleted from the Record of Protected Structures for the County, Naas and Athy Plans. Architectural Conservation Areas will also be proposed as part of the various Development Plan Reviews.

## Protected Structure Donaghcumper Demesne, Celbridge



The Conservation Grants Scheme is operated annually and in 2009, 34 applications for conservation grants were received with 23 approved to a total value of €207,600.



French Furze Cottage, The Curragh – 2009 Conservation Grant Recipient

## Housing

In 2009, this Council allocated the following units under its programme of social housing provision:

Traveller Accommodation in Athy	6
Construction in Sallins	61
Purchases	10
Part V	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

The Council continues to manage and maintain its housing stock with 2,769 units at the end of 2009. 146 vacant houses were returned to stock and allocated to persons in need of housing. 2,223 repair requests were completed during the year.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continued to operate during 2009. This scheme is intended to provide good quality rented accommodation to supplement the response of Local Authorities in meeting housing need. 284 persons on Supplementary Welfare Allowance were transferred into this scheme by the end of 2009.



## Housing Grants

Three grant schemes to enable necessary adaptation of private dwellings were operational during 2009:

- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
- Mobility Aids Grant
- Housing Aid for Older People

2009	Applications received	Grants Paid	Applications on hand in December
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	92	71 (€694,084.00)	218
Mobility Aids Grant	15	3 (€16,250.00)	13
Housing Aid for Older People	96	25 (€99,637.00)	470

Kildare County Council proactively prevents anti-social behaviour by employing Tenant Liaison Officers who are based in the Housing Department. These officers are responsible for dealing with all tenant complaints or reports of anti-social behaviour /nuisance. The officers are also involved in pre-tenancy training for new tenants.

The Council employs Homeless Outreach Workers who engage with persons who present as homeless and assist them with emergency and long-term accommodation. The Homeless Forum continued to work throughout the year in focusing on the needs of the homeless, service provision and the review of the Homeless Action Plan.

Kildare County Council continued to play a key administrative and enabling role in the operation of the Capital Assistance Scheme and the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme during 2009. The terms and conditions of these funding schemes are set out in Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 and in Memorandum VHU 2/02 and subsequent circulars.

As a Housing Authority, Kildare County Council is not just a provider of houses but also a builder of sustainable communities. Community Workers have been employed to actively pursue community participation in social housing projects, and in so doing to improve the quality of life in the schemes by promoting active citizenship and social inclusion. The Community Workers also support Residents Associations, recreational initiatives for young and old and educational programmes, both formal and informal, for Local Authority residents. Pre-Tenancy training also forms part of the process of facilitating new tenants to move into and become actively involved in their new communities.



## Kildare Civil Defence

The county's 80 Civil Defence volunteers are trained in First Aid, Fire Fighting, Rescue, Communications, Welfare, Warden and Radiation monitoring, Search and Recovery on Water and Land. Training is very much a part of their life, with training ongoing on a weekly basis.

Kildare Civil Defence were very busy throughout the year with flooding and snow emergencies. In these emergencies they assisted the communities with additional support i.e. water, food, power to boil kettles, charge mobile phones etc. They also provided boats, pumps and sandbags to those affected by the flooding and also provided transport to community nurses during the snow.



During the year they assisted at a number of community events throughout the county providing first aid, steward and traffic control. Kildare Civil Defence participated in a number of exercises with Dublin and Wicklow and also assisted these counties with duties. Kildare Civil Defence also held a Long Service, Rank Structure and Course Certification Presentation Night for the volunteers.



## Kildare Library Services

'Ideas Matter: Library Services Development Plan 2007-2012' and Kildare County Council's Corporate and Community Objectives provide a framework for delivery of library services.

<b>Indicators 2009</b>	
<b>Number of items loaned</b>	581, 645
<b>Number of current library members</b>	46, 666
<b>Public Internet Access Sessions</b>	39, 514
<b>Number of User Visits</b>	462, 283
<b>Events and Museum Visits</b>	55, 559

**Mainstreaming Change 2008 v 2009:**

- 55, 265 additional lendings in 2009
- Increase of 7.2% in book issues
- 35.3% increase in non book issues
- 34% increase in class visits
- 15% increase in parent and toddler events

**Integrated Planning and Delivery of Library Services and Infrastructure:**

- Mr. Sean Power, T.D. in May 2009, officially launched Monasterevin Community Library. Since then a wide and varied arts and library programme has been delivered to the new 750 members, who already have borrowed 20, 418 items.



- Kildare Community Library works are well underway to deliver a state of the art 5,000 sq ft facility. A dedicated Teenzone and up-to-date IT facilities will be key attractions in the library scheduled to open in April 2010.
- Since opening in October 2008 Clocha Rince Community Library has established a membership of over 550 people and issued over 9,000 items during 2009. Clocha Rince Community Library Project has won a *Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award* which will be presented at a ceremony on 8 July 2010.



- Continuing Kildare County Council's Access Implementation Plan, works progressed at Naas, Castledermot, Leixlip, Maynooth and Athy libraries.
- Preparation and research advanced during 2009 to deliver a new accessible library facility to the community of Kilcock.

- Planning for a new Central Library for the County at Newbridge is ongoing and reflects the Council's commitment to providing information and supporting cultural, leisure and educational opportunities for all citizens of County Kildare.
- Computerisation of all library service points was completed in 2009. Seven libraries now offer self-booking computer software to users and branches have rolled out the newly designed Library Webpage. To tap into what's happening in your branch log onto [www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library).
- The 'Lend-A-Laptop' service in Leixlip Library continues to gain in popularity.
- The Library Service/FÁS partnership project eCollege (making FÁS learning available in Libraries) has piloted successfully in Athy Library and will be rolled out in Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Newbridge libraries in 2010.



### Strategic Planning:

- In response to 'Teenspace – A National Recreation Policy for Young People' from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, the Library and Arts Services commissioned research with young people on all areas of engagement with library and arts service provision. A multi-formatted research document entitled 'Not Only Adults Drink Tea' was completed in September 2009 and will help inform future library and arts programmes and spaces for teenagers.

- Marketing and PR Plans have been implemented locally in each service point and continue to raise awareness of and promote all library services and programming.

#### **Engaging Citizens Actively – Building Communities:**

- Inclusive programmes such as online learning projects, countywide Multi-Cultural Events, Bealtaine Programmes, Community Exhibitions and musical events and 3G Internet classes have all proved very successful in 2009.
- 'eBooks is now available to members on the library website for digital lending. A collection of over 2,000 items can be uploaded to laptops or MP3 Players. Visit:  
<http://digitallibrary.kildare.ie>
- 'Changing Minds, Changing Practices' was completed during 2009. Currently with the Local Government Management Services Board, the pack has been recommended and accepted as a national template that can be delivered to all local authorities and other interested stakeholders, as valuable training resource.
- Hospitalised citizens were prioritised within the library service and lending and collection delivery at Naas Hospital will continue into 2010.
- Kildare Library and Arts Services in partnership with NUI Maynooth is delivering Part III of the successful programme 'Maynooth Film for All'. This project continues to be a huge success in bringing community and university library users together for screenings and discussion.
- An extension of the Toys, Technology and Training Project, a partnership approach to develop toy libraries and assistive technology resources will be extended into Leixlip Community Library during 2010.
- The 'Studio @ Leixlip Library' is fully operational and accommodating recording and broadcasting as part of wider programmes for all age groups including teenagers and senior senior citizens.





#### Quality of Life and Cultural Participation:

- Kildare County Council hosted and facilitated over approximately 2,600 events across the library network. These ranged from book clubs and storytelling workshops to art exhibitions, adult learning programmes, knitting clubs, DVD clubs, music for young people.
- The Children's Book Festival 2009 was the most successful yet with 163 reading appreciation and development programmes hosted for 5530 children during the month of October in libraries countywide.





- Kildare Library Service now actively facilitates 36 adult book clubs and 13 children's book clubs. These active library participants will be rewarded with the inaugural Kildare Readers Festival in May 2010, featuring readings, interviews and signings from many high profile Irish authors. Further details can be found at [www.kildarereadsfestival.ie](http://www.kildarereadsfestival.ie)
- County Kildare's genealogical heritage is available through a national database hosted by the Irish Family History Foundation.
- Through consultation in our communities, collections of books and multimedia directly respond to the growing diversity of information needs among our citizens. Graphic novels, preloaded MP3 collections, and Video Games are now embedded in our collections countywide.
- The Quaker Museum continues to attract a huge volume of visitors from all over the world who find their way to the little village of Ballitore.

# Waste Management

## Disposal and Recycling

In 2009 the Council provided a bi-weekly refuse collection to approximately 23,000 households, each producing an average 1¼ tonnes of waste every year. This adds up to a total of 43,000 tonnes when private operators' collection is taken into account. In addition to the bi-weekly residual waste collection, a dry recyclable collection takes place every second week. More people are recycling and composting their household waste and the introduction of pay-by-use refuse charges has reinforced this trend. The total dry recyclable material collected from households for processing was 21,000 tonnes.

The Council operates Civic Amenity Sites at Sillliott Hill, Kilcullen and at Gallows Hill, Athy. In addition to the standard bring-banks for glass, aluminium cans and textiles, the range of materials accepted at the recycling centres is expanding as new outlets for materials are developed. The list below sets out the range of materials currently accepted:

Corrugated Cardboard	Greyboard
Newsprint	Magazines
Waste Paper	Plastics of Categories 1, 2 and 4 only
Glass Bottles	Flat Glass
Aluminium and Metal Cans	Scrap Metal
Clothes	Electrical Goods
Paints	Varnishes
Medicines	Chemicals
Aerosols etc	Waste Oil
Car Batteries	Recyclables Household Hazardous Waste

2,513 tonnes of waste was processed through the council's recycling centres at Sillriott Hill and Athy, which represents a slight increase on the previous year. Public bring banks were maintained by the council at forty-one sites around the county and these yielded a total of 3,466 tonnes of glass and 65 tonnes of cans. Battery collection facilities in 125 primary and secondary schools and the two civic amenity sites continued to be a success. The schools battery collection project helps to prevent environmental harm and helps to educate young people in the need for careful waste disposal. As well as providing recycling bins and bring banks the council continued to offer composting bins to the public at cost price. The community composting project for grass cuttings continues with three community groups utilising large custom-built composting units provided by the Council.



Kill Recycling Banks

## Education and Awareness

Our Environmental Awareness Officer made 100 visits to schools and community groups (e.g. tidy towns) to create public awareness of waste issues and to promote good waste disposal practice in the community.

The Green Flag Campaign is helping in this effort; 65 of the county's schools had been awarded green flags by the end of the year and a total of 96 schools are registered for this distinction. The Council acts as a facilitator for schools who wish to become involved in this programme and actively encourages all schools to join this project. The Green-Schools Programme is funded by all participating local authorities, including Kildare County Council, through an annual payment directly to An Taisce. In addition, the council provides materials and/or financial aid for appropriate projects for participating Green-Schools. As part of Kildare County Council's commitment to education in environmental matters, school tours of the Integrated Waste Management facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy take place on a regular basis during the school year.

The council has also been creating awareness of waste management and other environmental issues through photographic competitions. The winning photographs from the 2008 environmental photographic competition were put on display in Rathangan and Naas libraries during the year.



Frozen Canal, Naas by Brian Cregan (Environmental photography competition entry)

The council also supports environmental initiatives by community groups and the Kildare local authorities through two schemes co-funded with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, namely the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund and the Anti Litter Awareness grant scheme. These schemes with a combined fund of €24,500 assisted in ten separate projects ranging from a cinema advertising campaign focussing on litter to local campaigns to reduce energy use.

The council hosted an exhibition in Áras Chill Dara for the month of October entitled “Wood of Life” promoting the sustainable use of forests.



Mayor Colm Purcell with pupils from St Corbans BNS at The Wood of Life exhibition, promoting sustainable timber use

The litter wardens are the visible face of the Council’s various litter prevention strategies and represent a considerable opportunity to increase public awareness of the litter problem and the Council’s response to it. The wardens’ information activities include-

- Attendance at meetings of community groups, residents associations and Tidy Towns committees to advise on their activities and discuss any litter-related problems.
- Ongoing informal contact with involved parties, which enables the wardens to take immediate action in relation to new litter blackspots, fresh incidents of illegal dumping, abandoned cars etc.



- Visits to retail, industrial and commercial premises in the county to advise owners, occupiers and staff members of their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Meeting members of the public to discuss litter matters directly affecting them.
- Visits to schools to publicise their presence and to discuss litter issues with students.

A two-man mobile environmental crew is employed to undertake a range of functions including clean-ups of litter blackspots and illegal dumping, erection of “No Littering” and related signage and monitoring of recycling facilities for littering. The crew liaise closely with the litter warden service in responding to such incidents.

Unfortunately, education alone has not been sufficient to eradicate litter and the council has found it necessary to penalise offenders with 1,213 fines issued for litter offences in 2009.

Bin designed by students from Robertstown National School



## National Spring Clean

As usual the month of April was dedicated to promoting the National Anti-Litter Campaign – National Spring Clean. Tidy Towns Committees and Residents Associations received support through the provision of refuse and recycling bags, litter pickers, gloves and awareness raising of events taking place throughout the month.

Various programmes aimed at community groups and residents associations, including Amenity Grant Schemes, Pride of Place Initiatives, etc are available to assist local voluntary effort. These schemes allow for the provision of litter bins, street furniture, plants and shrubs, and the improvement of green areas.

Council staff also assisted individual tidy towns groups in the participation process of the National Tidy Towns competition.

## National Tree Week

The council also provided 350 trees and 300 saplings to community groups during National Tree Week in March. On a cumulative basis, over 2,500 trees have been planted in the county as a result of this scheme.



# Human Resources

## Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare Local Authorities at 31 December 2009 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial *	6.00	6.00
Clerical/Administrative	388.00	349.60
Professional/Technical	166.00	163.00
Outdoor	413.00	345.00
Incentive Career Break Scheme	12.00	10.90
Supernumeraries	25.00	25.00
Total Core Staff	1010.00	899.50
Other Staff		
Contract Posts	37.00	37.00
Site Supervisory Contract Posts	5.00	5.00
Temporary/Seasonal *	5.00	5.00
Retained Firefighters	67.00	N/A
Non DoEH&LG	14.00	5.00
Total Other Posts	128.00	119.00

The Department processed applications for various positions in relation to 6 competitions that were held during the year. 19 applications were received, 17 male and 2 female. As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 9 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 8 male and 1 female. 5 applicants were offered posts.

## **Training and Development**

The continuing need for a modern, flexible, multi-skilled workforce is recognised, and training schemes are tailored accordingly, with the co-operation and participation of staff. Particular emphasis is placed on Health and Safety requirements, Accessibility and Diversity, Management Skills, Technical Skills, and skills for the job.

## **Staff Counselling**

The HR Department continues to recognise the importance of an Employee Assistance Programme, which is available to all staff on a confidential basis and which provides an opportunity to access professional counseling to assist staff who may experience personal or work related difficulties to develop and fulfil their personal potential.

## **Industrial and Employee Relations**

The HR policy of fostering good industrial relations at corporate level, in an effort to resolve staff issues at the earliest possible time, continued in 2009 through the Partnership process with both the Handling Significant Change Through Partnership Group and the Partnership Committee. Major savings were achieved in 2009 through the co-operation of staff and unions in recognising the difficult financial situation facing local authorities. Towards the end of 2009 the changing national industrial relations scene resulted in a one day strike on the 24 November 2009. HR continues to engage with all unions on a regular basis to deal with both local and national issue as they arise.

## Workplace Partnership

Workplace Partnership is the way we do things, not something to do in Kildare Local Authorities. It is the agreed method for managing change within the local authority sector. Each directorate has its own respective workplace partnership committees. The Kildare Local Authority Workplace Partnership Committee is nominated by and representative of unions, management and employees within Kildare Local Authorities.

Consensus is the method used for decision-making. The Workplace Partnership framework is recognised as the method for implementation of the Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Act 2006.

During 2009 the committee met on eleven occasions and dealt with the following agenda items:

- Action Plan for 2009
- Continuation of the Return to Learning Programme
- Production of Staff Newsletter
- Lanpag site visit
- Flexitime review
- Time Management System
- PMDS
- Internal communications policy
- Review of outdoor worker recruitment process
- Handling Significant Change through Partnership
- Electoral Boundary Changes
- Strengthening of Partnership Structures.
- Street Cleaning in the Maynooth and Celbridge areas
- Development of Staff Rotation Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy

## Retirements

The following persons retired during 2009, having completed 749 years combined service:

Name	Position
Maria Allison	Administrative Officer
Michael Bermingham	Administrative Officer
Thomas Boylan	General Operative
James Burke	Chargehand
Richard Byrne	Storekeeper
William Cullen	Cat6A Driver
Margaret <u>Dempsey</u>	Assistant Staff Officer
Dermot Brennan	Administrative Officer
Des Page	Director of Services
James Doyle	General Operative
Michael Duignan	Overseer Dev Control
Paddy Dunne	Tar Patch Machine Operative
Eamonn Walsh	Sub Station Officer
Gaye Coughlan	Clerical Officer
Gerry Crehan	Senior Executive Technician
Noel <u>Harrington</u>	Ganger Category 4
Maeve <u>Hilliard</u>	Clerical Officer
Name	Position

Angela Carmel <u>Hyland</u>	Clerical Officer
Julia Anne <u>King</u>	Clerical Officer
Anne Long	Clerical Officer
Peter Mahon	Cat 4 Ganger
Martin Dalton	Sub Station Officer
Gerard McGuinness	Cat 6A Driver
Tony <u>McNamee</u>	Revenue Collector
Kevin Mulhall	Cat7B Driver/Plant Operative
Josie O'Keeffe	Assistant Staff Officer
Breda O'Neill	Senior Staff Officer
Patricia O'Shea	Branch Librarian
Thomas <u>Raleigh</u>	Revenue Collector
Thomas Skehan	Director of Services
Breda Whelan	Clerical Officer

## Leisure For All . . .

The Council established a leisure services department in 1997 in response to growing demand for public sponsorship of recreational facilities.

The department was involved in the following activities during 2009:

- Operation and development of swimming pools in Naas and Athy;
- Operation and re-development of Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre;
- Development of North Kildare Sports Campus;
- Sports development in the county;
- Parks programme;
- Upkeep and development of walking routes;
- Grants for local sport and recreation clubs;
- Promotion of water safety;
- Development and maintenance of playgrounds.

### Swimming Pools

The two swimming pools in Naas and Athy were completed in late 2008 and open to the public in March 2009. The Council's company 'Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd' operate the centres under K- Leisure.

The two old swimming pools were de-commissioned in 2009 and transformed into public car park facilities.

## **Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre**

Approximately 132,250 people visited Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre, with over 4,200 opening hours in 2009.

Approximately €2.9 million was spent on the centre in terms of upgrading the centre's fitness studio, gym, and changing facilities. A new coffee shop and reception area has totally transformed the centre to becoming a jewel in the crown of the council's commitment to sport and leisure in the county. The centre was awarded the leisure industry's white flag for hygiene and environmental quality for the seventh successive year. The centre has grown in popularity from year to year and is a well-established part of recreational life in mid-Kildare.

The playground attached to the centre is very popular and still attracts around 90,000 visits per year. It has received recognition from special needs groups and very favourable comments from the Department of Health and Children, which identified the playground as an example of good practice, supporting a rich play environment.

## **North Kildare Sports and Leisure Campus**

In 2007 phase one of the project commenced, involving the Leixlip amenities centre gaining four astro pitches and Leixlip tennis club gaining six tennis courts. Phase two and three of the project is still committed too in order to provide the site for the procurement of the Regional North Kildare Swimming Pool.

## **Parks Programme**

Projects and work completed in 2009 were

- The preparation of a draft Open Space Strategy for the County
- The installation of a viewing point over the Rye River on the Royal Canal at Leixlip
- The development of a Conservation Plan for Leixlip Spa and the implementation of a scrub removal programme on the site.
- Tree Planting Programme was carried out at various towns in the County.

- A tree pruning and tree removal programme was carried out based on requests received from around the County.
- Landscaping works were carried out in William Francis Rowantree Park in conjunction with Leixlip Town Council.
- A spring bulb planting programme was carried out at towns including Monasterevin, Naas, Kilcullen, Johnstown, Kill and Maynooth.
- Grass maintenance was carried out in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin.
- Assistance provided to internal departments on landscaping issues.
- Financial and technical support to Residents Associations and Tidy Town Committees in the County.

## **Supporting Community-based Sport**

The council is a lead agency in the Kildare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan. Through this partnership a number of sports development programmes are offered to schools and communities. Our Leisure Services and Housing Departments work together to provide sport and recreational programmes, coaching and equipment to estates in towns and villages around the county. The service also facilitates the Kildare retirement activity network, which is based at our Sports Centre in Newbridge.

## **Walking Routes**

The Leisure Services Department carried out maintenance work on walking routes and developed plans for the creation of new routes in Kildare Town and at Ballinafagh Lake. These projects are being undertaken in co-operation with Kildare Sports Partnership and the council's heritage service. An audit of all walking routes will take place 2009.



## **Sports and Recreational Grants**

The following organisations in the county benefited from sports assistance grants:-

- Maynooth Town FC
- Enable Ireland
- Ballyteague FC
- Raheen FC
- Ballyoulster FC

## **Water Safety**

New ring buoys were provided on high-risk waterways in Leixlip, Celbridge and Ardclough. New risk waterways have been identified in and additional warning signs and ring buoys will be provided. Kildare Water Safety held a number of safety awareness weeks and classes in association with the council's Leisure Services Department.

## **Playgrounds**

An new playground was constructed in Clane. This brings the total number of playgrounds in the county to 8. Work also commenced on a new playground in Monasterevin. This will be completed by mid 2010. Designs for the installation of playgrounds in Narraghmore and Kilcullen were also commenced and it is hoped to implement these in 2010.



Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued and in Newbridge Playground some of the existing safety surface was replaced.



Under the Special Play initiatives a new interactive playunit was purchased for the Teen Zone in Maynooth Playground and this will be installed in early 2010. Funding of €30,000 was also given to Riverbank Arts Centre for the development of a childrens area within the Arts Centre and associated activities.

## Cooperation

As part of the council's link with Northern Ireland, a sports delegation under the leadership of Mayor Councillor Colm Purcell and the Leisure Services Team welcomed Lisburn City Council and Sport Lisburn to Naas for a Sporting and Cultural Event to strengthen ties between the respective communities.

## ICT Activities

### Systems Management and Maintenance

- Conduct a security audit and continue to work on the technical security of the network and systems.
- Reconfigure designated external office connections over the network to improve security and response times for users.
- 10,876 calls to the support desk during 2009.
- Circa 120 PC's/laptops purchased, built and deployed during 2009. Older PC's were rebuilt and re-assigned to other users. Below spec PC's were wiped, re-built and donated to charities, others were dismantled and parts kept for re-use. Any unusable equipment was sent to Silliot Hill recycling facility for proper disposal.
- Continue to provide focussed ICT support to Members as required.

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Move all council data from Novell infrastructure to Microsoft Windows file storage
- Move significant application databases from stand alone SQL instances to SQL2005 Active-Passive cluster with data moved to the Storage Area Network (SAN)
- Conduct a full organisation review of all Microsoft product licensing and buy-out all required licenses as directed by the Department of Finance.
- Move all council staff into the Kildare Council Domain for ease of use and ease of account management.
- Implement a server virtualisation solution for the council to reduce the number of physical servers/licenses being maintained and to provide a high-availability solution for council applications and data stores.

- Implement a new Commvault data backup solution and develop phase one of a Disaster Recovery solution for remote storage of back-up data.
- Tender and implement a new corporate mobile phone (voice and data) deal for all council phones resulting in significant savings.



## Development Team Update

- Implement a standalone SQL Reporting Services server for reporting purposes.
- Extend the ePayments solution to Naas Town Council for the payment of fines over the web and automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems.
- Move all councils to a new online planning system. This was a complex project given the importance of the planning system and the volume of data that was exported to the new system.
- Assist in the implementation of a number of new application modules, e.g. the tax module in Agresso, a new version of the cash office and the introduction of a Development Contributions module into the main FMS.
- Continue to support and maintain existing IT systems.
- Introduce and extend the use of scanning technology in a number of internal departments to improve processing efficiencies.

## GIS Update

- Implementation of a new map based system for the management and tracking of council property (PIR – Property Interest Register)
- Update the MapGuide Corporate Browser on the intranet to allow all KCC staff access to Ordnance Survey mapping as well as relevant third party data sets for query and information purposes.

- Release a Public Web GIS Planning System for members of the public to spatially query/view planning data.
- Present the Athgarvan and Kill Local Area Plans in a GIS Environment which will serve as a template for all future area plans.
- Update of Internal GIS Planning System to 3.4.2 with added functionality.
- Continued data capture through the successful rollout of the Universal Online Digitising Tool...(Land Availability, Geological Sites, Libraries, Submissions)

## Fire Service

The new Departmental Structures are now Operations, Fire Safety and Emergency Planning. Operations deals with Stations, Training and Health and Safety matters. Fire Safety deals with Fire Safety Certification of proposed and new buildings under the Building Control Act together with inspections of existing buildings under the Fire Services Act. Emergency Planning deals with Major Emergency Planning and Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service as well as inspections and control of High-Risk premises in the county.

During 2009, a major emphasis has continued to be placed on Safety, Health and Welfare at Work in the Operations Department. The Ancillary Safety Statement which was developed and signed off by the Chief Fire Officer and the Director of Service is now serving as a guidance on the way forward. Standard Operating Guidelines continue to be drafted for all Fire Service operations and Safe Working Practices sheets are being written up for all methods of work. An intensive training programme for all firefighters was undertaken to improve the overall Health and Safety regime. An equally intensive programme was continued on maintenance and testing of all the fire appliances, ladders, lifting equipment and access platforms.

### Fire Brigade Operations

During the past six years the Fire Service attended 1426 calls in 2002, 1437 in 2003, 1538 in 2004, 1590 in 2005, 1780 in 2006, 1658 in 2007, 1913 in 2008 and 1654 in 2009. These figures show a decrease in the last year.

The numbers of calls per station for the various years are shown in this table:

Station	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Newbridge	414	374	372	410	454	442	472	415
Naas	274	284	384	441	487	458	467	400
Maynooth	261	220	250	268	318	256	293	253
Leixlip	143	173	212	147	193	170	222	169
Athy	216	248	237	215	205	206	290	258
Monasterevin	118	138	119	109	123	126	166	159

These calls are broken down by call type as follows:

Fire Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Chimney	362	314	294	291	286	256	252	270
Dwelling Fires	215	168	154	195	171	181	223	169
Other premises	89	93	113	121	129	85	135	112
Road Traffic Crash	206	171	148	192	156	193	217	148
Other Rescues	49	33	38	42	43	44	49	33
Flooding	38	8	2	3	9	29	96	53
Outdoor Fires	204	370	440	358	518	395	416	360
Motor Vehicle Fires	135	140	196	180	170	205	278	285
Miscellaneous	74	17	24	44	61	69	40	23
False Alarms	54	109	101	164	237	204	207	201

Chimney Fires continue to decline year on year as in other years which is good.

Attendance at road traffic crashes increased again showing a growth in the numbers of serious accidents requiring the extrication skills and equipment of the Fire Service indicating that the Fire Services attend as many serious road crashes as they do fires in dwellings. The increased



risks due to attendance at Road Traffic Incidents on high speed roads requires the use of Lane Closure Trailers with high intensity directional lighting.

The increase in the number of dwelling fires is indicative of the rise of the number of dwelling units in the county over the past five years. Motor vehicle fires are mostly attributed to the number of stolen cars being abandoned and set alight particularly in our rural areas.

The average turnout times for the various stations over the past six years are contained in the following table: times shown are minutes

Station	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Newbridge	6.6	7.2	7.5	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.7	6.7
Naas	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.6
Maynooth	5.6	5.7	5.5	4.5	4.3	5.8	6.4	6.1
Leixlip	4.8	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.6	6.0	5.4	6.2
Athy	7.9	5.4	5.4	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.4	6.0
Monasterevin	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.6

The Fire Brigade attendance times for the year 2009 are as follows:

Less than 10 minutes	28.3 %
Between 10 and 20 minutes	58.1 %
Greater than 20 minutes	13.53 %

The high percentage of calls attended between 10 and 20 minutes is indicative of the growth in the number of calls received from outside the Station town environs.



## Fire Safety

The number of planning referrals dealt with by the Chief Fire Officer during the year was 393 which was an enormous drop on the previous year. This is indicative of the down turn in the construction industry

### Building Control Fire Safety Certification

There were 195 applications in 2009.

115 Fire Safety Certificates were granted.

4 Fire Safety Certificates were refused.

All FSC applications were dealt with as quickly as possible and 71% of recommendations were made within 50 days.

## **Consultation and Advice to Public (including Designers and Developers)**

Fire Safety Department gave advice and guidance to the public, designers and developers when requested. There were 18 such requests. SACFO also issued press releases and gave interviews to news papers and radios at Christmas and during fire safety week.

## **Childcare Premises**

A total of 81 inspections were carried out on day care premises.

## **Complaints**

A total of 13 inspections were carried out as a result of complaints received

## **Outdoor and Indoor Events**

The major out door events supervised during the year were:

- Oxegen concert from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July. This was attended by 80,000 each day of which 70,000 were camping.
- The National Hunt Festival was held in Punchestown from 21<sup>st</sup> April until 25<sup>th</sup> April but attendances were slightly down this year.
- The Derby was attended by almost 60,000 in the Curragh on 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- The National Ploughing Championships were held in Athy this year from 21<sup>st</sup> September to the 24<sup>th</sup> September . The Fire Service provided fire cover for the event for the duration. Inspections were carried out on a daily basis for Fire Safety compliance.

Fire Safety section co-ordinated with the organisers to ensure the safety of the events from a fire and public safety aspect.

## **Dangerous Substance Act**

7 petrol filling stations applied for licenses under the Dangerous Substance Act. All were inspected, 3 were granted licenses, the other six were given a list of remedial work to carry out and are due to be reinspected.

## **Fire Safety Compliance inspections**

A total of 395 inspections of premises were carried out to check on compliance with Fire Safety standards.

## **Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations 1997**

Fire Safety Section formally wrote to all petrol filling facility operators and outlined the requirements under the act / regulations.

No facilities applied for and were granted Vapour Recovery Certificates.

## **Circuit and District Courts Licensing**

80 licensed premises were inspected. The majority of these had applied for dance licenses.

## **Building Inspections**

In addition to Licensing, Child Care facilities and DSA inspections, Fire Safety Department carried out 182 inspections of other premises.

## **Enforcement Proceedings**

Two Fire Safety Notices were served during the year.

## Community Fire Safety

In addition to the schools training programme and the smoke alarm programme two fire safety talks were given to community groups and a stand was erected and talks given at the Ploughing Championship.

Fire Safety press releases were issued to local media during fire safety week and Christmas. SACFO also did radio interviews at these times which were played on air on numerous occasions.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### Major Emergency Planning

The following tasks have been achieved this year:

- A new Major Emergency Plan has been produced in accordance with the Government issued guidance on Major Emergency Management.
- The Major Emergency Plan has been printed and hard copies distributed to all persons named in the Distribution List
- Training for various aspects of Major Emergency Management has been undertaken and successfully completed
- Information Management, Media Liaison, On-site Coordinator and Local Coordination training has been organised for staff of Kildare County Council
- A Regional Inter-agency Major Emergency exercise has been carried out
- A fire brigade mobilisation exercise has been carried out at Irish Industrial Explosives

### Pre-Incident Planning

The following tasks have been achieved this year:

- 186 high risk premises in the County have been notified and requested to provide Pre-Incident Planning information
- 75 premises have returned Auto Cad drawings
- 79 premises have returned Pre-Incident Planning templates
- 48 Pre-Incident Plans for high risk buildings within the County have been fully completed

- Computer Vehicle Mounted Data Systems for Kildare Fire Service vehicles have been installed on all front line appliances and emergency tenders. The Senior Officer Command vehicle has also been equipped with this new computer system. This gives information to fire crews while enroute to all types of incident.

### **High Risk Residential Premises**

The following tasks have been achieved this year:

- 8 inspections have been carried out on Nursing Homes
- 3 re-inspections have been carried out

# County Kildare Road Infrastructure

County Kildare has an extensive network of roads totalling some 2,290 kilometres as follows:

<b>Motorways</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>National Primary</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>National Secondary</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Regional Roads</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>Local Roads</b>	<b>1,712</b>

This extensive and heavily trafficked road network requires Kildare County Council to continue to invest heavily in road maintenance and improvement, on all categories of road in the county, over the coming years. However, in 2009 the level of funding available to maintain and improve the road network was severely constrained due to the National and International recession.

## Road Improvement Works

The Transportation Department and Kildare's National Road Design Office (NRDO) are involved in the development of Capital Works Projects in compliance with the objectives of Transport 21, the Government's Capital Investment Framework under the National Development Plan through which the transport system in Ireland will be developed, over the period 2006 to 2015, and the County, Town and Local Area Development Plans. These projects are developed, as appropriate, through constraints studies, feasibility reports, route options, Part VIII planning procedures, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIS), Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), tendering and to construction. The development of these projects is subject to the relevant statutory requirements and funding being available.



- **M9 Kilcullen to Carlow**

The M9 Kilcullen to Carlow motorway project was completed and opened to traffic in December 2009, 10 months ahead of schedule. The 28 kilometre motorway provides a bypass of Castledermot, and also provides a new national secondary road to Athy via the new junction at Mullamast. The new Athy link is due to be completed in early 2010.

- **R407 Portgloriam**

Contract 1 of the Portgloriam Road Improvement Scheme was completed in 2009. Contract 2 of this project is at tender stage and is due to commence by Quarter 3 2010. Construction is expected to be completed by mid 2011.

- **Newbridge Link Road**

This road links the Newbridge Outer and Inner Relief Roads, between the Newbridge Industrial estate and the Curragh Grange Housing Development. Phase 1 of the road improvement scheme has been completed and Phase 2 of the scheme has developed through the compulsory purchase order (CPO) process. Land acquisition and construction works will be developed subject to adequate funding becoming available.

- **Newbridge (Entrance to Kildare County Council Lands, Department of Defence Head Quarters / CIE Carpark and Pedestrian bridge)**

Phase 1 of the entrance is at construction stage. Phase 2 is subject to the completion of the Department of Defence boundary works. The footbridge is currently at preliminary stage. Subject to statutory procedures and approvals it is proposed to commence construction in Quarter 4 2010 and complete the works early in 2011.



- **R448 Kilcullen Road Naas**

This scheme is at pre-compulsory purchase order stage and will proceed to construction subject to satisfactory completion of the statutory processes and funding being available.

- **R417 Ardreigh, Athy**

Phase 1 of the Ardreigh Road Improvement scheme is complete and Phase 2 is currently at construction stage. The scheme is due for completion prior to the end of 2010. Post-excavation archaeological works are ongoing.

- **R402 Enfield Edenderry Road Improvement Scheme**

The CPO became operative on the 23rd July 2009. The detailed design is complete. The pre-qualification documents are complete and are with the Department of Transport (DoT) for approval. The tender documents have been completed and are with the National Roads Authority for approval. The preliminary appraisal of the scheme is with the Department of Transport for approval. The detailed appraisal (Business Case) is with the Department of Transport for approval. Kildare County Council proposes to commence land acquisition on this project in 2010 subject to Department of Transport approval.

- **Athy Southern Relief Road**

The Athy Southern Relief Road is at draft Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Stage and will proceed through these processes subject to approvals and funding being available.

- **Sallins Bypass**

Constraints and feasibility studies have been carried out on the Sallins Bypass and a preferred route has been selected. This route has been adopted into the Sallins Local Area Plan 2009.

- **Athy Northern Relief Road**

A feasibility study was carried out and a preferred route selected. This route is in the process of being adopted into the Athy Development Plan 2006-2012.

## **2009 Restoration Programme for Regional and Local Roads**

2009 was a very difficult year for Roads Authorities as funding from Central Government was significantly reduced. The decrease in funding reduced substantially the length of road that was improved in 2009, but among the works undertaken were:

- R415 Allenwood to Littletown
- R408 Ladychapel to Crinstown
- L2030 Victoria Bridge
- R414 Monastereven to Rathangan

A number of roads which serviced routes to the National Ploughing Championships in Athy were also improved prior to the event. The R407 Mainham Road Improvement Scheme was completed with the provision of a footbridge at Gollymochy Bridge in 2009.

All of the above works were managed through the Council's Road Design, Construction or Maintenance sections.

## **Traffic Management Section**

Following the setting up of the Traffic Management Centre (TMC) in Aras Chill Dara in 2006, a process whereby the TMC would act as a focus for the provision of Traffic Management services for the county as a whole was initiated and where the management of Traffic Signals, Public Lighting and related technology is centralised.

There are 150 Traffic Signal Installations (Pelican Crossings and Signalised Junctions) in the county, representing an increase of nearly 50% in the number of installations in the county over the last five years. There are also 21 Zebra Crossings, 20 Automatic Traffic Counters, 14 CCTV Cameras, 70 School Warning Signals and 6 VMS Parking Guidance Signs. 60 of the Traffic Signal Installations are remotely monitored in the Traffic Management Centre.

Investment in the Traffic Management Centre to date has resulted in the provision of Urban Traffic Control (UTC) and traffic related Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems in Newbridge, Maynooth and Celbridge. The improvements in the efficiency of traffic signals in these towns have provided economic time-savings to all road users. It is hoped to expand this intelligent traffic system to other urban centres around the county, should adequate capital funding become available.

## **Road Safety**

Kildare County Council's Road Safety Officer continues to promote road safety awareness in the county at every level, incorporating all sectors of the community. In 2009 Kildare County Council employed 28 School Wardens and provided funding for Road Safety Training, Education, Promotions and Programmes.

## **Bye-Laws**

A review of Celbridge Pay Parking Byelaws commenced in 2008 and was considered and adopted by full council in 2009. A review of Leixlip parking by-laws commenced in 2009 and will be considered by full Council in 2010. A draft of Maynooth pay parking by-laws was initiated in 2009. The Transportation Department are currently seeking a suitable long-term car park to facilitate the proposed parking by-laws. The by-laws may be considered in 2010.

# **Supporting Communities**

## **Housing, Community & Culture**

### **County Development Board**

The Council, through its Community and Enterprise Directorate, provides the practical and financial support necessary to secure the work of the Kildare County Development Board (CDB). In 2009 the Kildare County Development Board continued its work in the implementation of the Kildare 2012 Action Plan 2009-2012. Its function is to ensure that the policies of the bodies and interests represented on the Board accord generally with the strategy, and that resources are optimised for the common good of the community.

Significant human and financial resources have been put into the delivery of the Action Plan across a broad spectrum of agencies. Kildare County Council has made resource contributions to numerous CDB actions, namely the Kildare Newbridge Interculturalism Together project, Interagency Response to Traveler needs, Kildare Local Anti Poverty Strategy, Active Citizenship. The County Council will continue to support the work of the board and the implementation of CDB actions. Funding will be provided on a match fund basis with contributions from project partners.

The Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, a sub-structure of the Board, continued to develop interagency work in the area of Social Inclusion. The remit of the group is to coordinate implementation and spending on social inclusion programmes in the county. The main area of activity over the past year was the development of cohesion between the local development agencies (OAK, KELT and KCP) and the endorsement of the work plans of these and other agencies to ensure consistency with the County Strategy and to eliminate gaps and overlaps in service delivery. A multi-agency approach is the only effective way to address many of the complex social issues confronting communities in Kildare today.

In 2009 Cill Dara ar Aghaidh Teo, the new Board constituted under the Cohesion process, encompasses the merging together of two local development projects: The Kildare Community Partnership and OAK Partnership, and the county Rural Development LEADER programme, KELT, to form one company responsible for the delivery of both programmes to the full county.

## **Tourism and the Work of County Kildare Fáilte**

The Community and Enterprise Directorate works in partnership with local and regional tourism authorities to support the development of tourism within the County. The Council provides substantial financial support to County Kildare Fáilte and worked closely with it on several initiatives in 2009, including:

- Supporting the production of marketing material and opportunities;
- Embracing information and communication technology for tourism development;
- Presenting a co-ordinated marketing approach;
- Developing links with adjoining counties;
- Engaging the trade.

## **Making Rapid Progress**

Athy's designation as a RAPID area in 2002 led to the appointment of a RAPID Co-ordinator and the establishment of an Area Implementation Team, a partnership between residents, the town council and statutory and local development bodies. The RAPID Programme is managed through the Housing, Community and Culture Directorate. During 2009 RAPID secured and assisted access to funding from a number of sources in order to continue the implementation of the Athy RAPID Strategic Plan. This funding was available from a number of sources including the RAPID Leverage Funding schemes, which enable the delivery of actions to address issues identified by residents as priorities.

## **Grant Assistance to Communities**

The County Council supports many community groups and continues to administer a series of grant schemes aimed at a wide range of activities in the county. In 2009 €45,000 was paid to 66 local groups for projects involving young people, people with disabilities, women's groups and local development under the Community Grant Scheme. The Festival Grant Scheme provided support to some 46 festivals countywide to the tune of €54,000, and €37,000 was granted to assist the work of over 49 groups engaged in environmental type work under the Amenity Grant Scheme, which was introduced in 2005.

## **Education Bursaries**

The objective of the Education Bursary Schemes established by the Council is to underpin participation by people in third level study opportunities, who would otherwise be unable to obtain access in the usual way. The William G. Carroll Education Bursary for the Community is intended mainly for people who are in low-level income groups / suffering serious disadvantage, and are pursuing courses, primarily, but not exclusively, in the field of community development. Eleven people were awarded a bursary under this scheme in 2009. The Kildare Education Bursary for People with Disabilities is for any third level course. In 2009, eleven bursaries were awarded to people with disabilities. Awards granted in 2009 under both Bursary Schemes totalled €11,500.

## **Tidy Towns**

The County Council continues to provide extensive support to Tidy Towns mainly through incentive grants for both entering and achieving in the competition. Tidy Towns entrants continue to grow each year, as does the achievement of awards. In 2009 €24,500 was awarded to prize winners who came first and second in their electoral areas as well as most improved, silver medal winner, bronze medal winners, commended and highly commended.

The overall winner in Kildare was Straffan which also received a silver medal – Straffan and three bronze medal winners , Kill, Naas, and Newbridge. Rathangan got the climate change award and a special endeavour award went to Derrinturn.

## **A Voice for Young People**

Comhairle na nÓg was established in 2004 under the County Development Board and is recognised as the principal appropriate body through which the youth of Kildare can influence the decision making process pertaining to their needs.

Comhairle hosts an annual event at which delegates are elected to represent the youth of Kildare at Dail na nÓg. Five delegates go forward with one remaining on the Dail na nÓg Council, which meets monthly. These delegates also attend a Council meeting, County Development Board meeting and visited various Strategic Policy Committees throughout the year.

## **Community and Voluntary Forum**

The Council continues to work with, and offers practical support to, the Community and Voluntary Forum as it develops a strong, representative voice for its area of interest. The forum represents the sector on the Council's Strategic Policy Committees and on the County Development Board, the County Childcare Committee and Kildare Sports Partnership, as well as on a number of other partnership projects.

## **County Kildare Twinning Committee Activities**

Twinning committee activities in 2009 involved the continuation of the existing twinning programme with Lexington and Deauville with a view to further enhancing the links between all three locations. To promote young peoples' awareness of twinning in the county, the annual art competition for second level students took place and a new competition for primary schools was launched. The student exchanges both at second and third level were also continued. A new county twinning race was arranged for Punchestown.

## Multicultural Day 2009





# An Overview of Arts Programme 2009

Within the arts remit, the mission statement for Kildare County Council is 'to further develop an Arts Service for Kildare County Council, which engages and inspires citizens of the County, placing the arts at the centre of the economic, social, cultural development of Kildare'. This intention is embedded in 'Making Inroads: An Arts Development Plan for Kildare County Council 2006-2011'.

The plan outlined strategic objectives for key development areas including Arts in Health, Youth Arts, Arts in Education, Public Art, and Social Inclusion and in specific art forms - Visual Arts, Theatre, Film, Dance, Architecture, Music and Literature.

## Key Areas for Development

### Public Art

- Adoption and launch of Public Art Policy for Kildare County Council
- Roll out of Public Art programme
- Within the Public Art programme, commission artists in socially engaged practice (Castlefen, Sallins and Athy)



- Assist other statutory bodies, private development to participate in commissioning

## **Inclusion through the Arts**

The Arts Service 'audience' is all citizens of Co Kildare and beyond. Inclusion through the arts is embedded in our work e.g.

- Arts in Libraries
- Multi Disciplinary programme for parents and tots, children and adults
- Storyteller in Residence

## **Arts in Health**

- Adoption and launch of Arts in Health Strategy for Kildare County Council
- Roll out of Arts in Health programme
- Facilitation of inter agency Arts in Health Steering Committee
- Facilitation of Naas Hospital Arts Strategy
- Naas General Hospital Curatorial Project
- Development of programmes with priority for Mental Health, the Elderly, Naas Hospital, services for adults with intellectual disabilities

## **Arts in Education**

- Further development of "If I had an Artist for a Day ....." workshop series for primary schools to include digital media, film, etc

## **Youth Arts**

- Adoption and launch of Youth Arts Policy for Kildare County Council
- Publish findings from Youth Arts Research Residency
- Support and advise Griese Youth Theatre 10 year celebrations
- Support Kildare Youth Theatres' move to a new premises, via grant aid, equipment, furniture and services
- Support for young musicians via the Platform series (See Music below)

## Artform Development

### Visual Arts

- Extend the Municipal Art Collection; develop purchasing policy
- Fund/support Leinster Printmaking Studio, Clane and CAKE contemporary arts, Curragh Camp

### Dance development

- Biennial Dance Summer School at NUI, Maynooth, July 2009
- Dance Bursary for Kildare based dancers

### Literature

- Cecil Day Lewis Bursary Award for professional/emerging writers
- Cecil Day Lewis Poetry and Short Story Awards
- Support Gerard Manley Hopkins Summer School

### Music

- Support for County Kildare Orchestra
- Platform Series
- Recording suite @ Leixlip Library – mentoring/ recording facilities for emerging bands
- Bursary awards for recording studio
- Battle of the bands and Oxegen 09 – competition to select 2 Kildare based bands to perform at Oxegen/ mentoring for selected bands



## Film

- North Kildare Film Club in association with NUI, Maynooth
- Kildare Film Festival
- Research Youth Film Festival/ opportunities for film

## Theatre

- Support The Performance Corporation developmental work, in Castletown House, Celbridge
- Support Crooked House Theatre Companys' move to a new premises, via grant aid, equipment, furniture and services
- Master classes in theatre practices for actors, directors, youth theatres, etc

## Architecture

- Extend the 'If I had an Artist for a Day ....' programme to include architecture
- Public Art/ Architecture/ project



## **Information Service**

- Information, advise and support for individual artists, arts collectives and community groups including mentoring on arts practice, funding and networking opportunities
- Develop Arts Service website
- Advise clients on Child Protection Guidelines, Health and Safety, etc

## **Awards and Opportunities**

- Annual grant aid opportunities, bursary/ training awards – these schemes attracted a large no of applications from artists, arts collectives and community groups

# Water Services

The provision of water and sewerage services is key function of Kildare County Council.

The Capital side the Water Services Programme is essentially divided into two main elements:

- Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) and
- Rural Water Programme (RWP)

The WSIP is a rolling plan for the provision of major Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment. The latter is a programme for smaller schemes and is devolved by Government to Local Authorities. A number of major Water Services Capital Schemes were either commissioned, started or advanced towards construction in 2009.

1. The new Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant (with a design capacity of 1600 population equivalent) was commissioned in 2009.
2. The Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme started construction in 2009 and will be commissioned in late 2010. This network improvement scheme serves Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Celbridge and Straffan.
3. The following sewerage and water supply schemes were advanced in 2009:
  - The Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme
  - The Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme
  - The Castlewarden to Ballygoran Water Supply Scheme and
  - The Robertstown and Johnstownbridge Wellfield Development Scheme



4. It is anticipated subject to funding approvals that the following sewerage and water supply schemes will commence in 2010:
- The Kildare Town Sewerage Scheme
  - The Athy Town Sewerage Scheme [Pipeline Remediation Works]
  - The River Barrow Abstraction Scheme
  - The Monasterevin to Kildangan Water Supply Scheme

## **Water Supply**

94% of the County's water is sourced from neighbouring authorities, and the distribution of this water through the county network forms the bulk of the work within Water Services including Maintenance repair and upgrade of reservoirs pipes and fittings, monitoring of performance and management of the network, connection of new commercial and domestic customers, monitoring and protection of water quality.

## **Rural Water Programme**

The following schemes were completed during 2009:-

- Kildare Town Wellfield Water Supply Scheme
- Waterstown Water Supply Scheme
- St. Joseph's Terrace Athy (Lead Replacement Scheme)
- Kilcullen (KDA) Industrial Estate To Hermitage Park Sewerage Scheme
- Rickardstown Sewerage Scheme

## **Schemes proposed for construction 2010**

The Rural Water Allocation from the DEHLG for 2010 was notified to the Council on 19 April 2010. The allocation was less than that allocated for 2009.

- Kildare Town Wellfield Supply Extension
- Cloney to Bert Cross Watermain
- Castlemartin Sewerage Scheme (Stage 1)

## **Water Conservation**

Continued water conservation activities, spearheaded by the Council's Leak Detection Unit, have resulted in the unaccounted for water levels being contained at between 25% to 24% in 2009. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted for water levels in the region is approximately 29%. Efforts are ongoing to influence the consumer towards efficient use of the water we supply, while it is also worth noting that savings in use of water by customers also reduces the volume of waste water effluent sent to Waste Water Treatment Plants and brings benefits that heretofore may have gone unrecognised.

## **Wastewater**

Kildare has a degree of relative independence from neighbouring counties in this regard, with all wastewater being treated at a number of treatment plants within the county. The largest of these plants are at Leixlip (serving Kilcock Maynooth Celbridge Leixlip and Straffan.) and Osberstown (serving Naas Newbridge Kilcullen Athgarvan Prosperous Sallins Clane and Kill). Each has an existing design capacity of 80,000 population equivalent (PE). Currently there is spare treatment capacity in Leixlip, however the plant at Osberstown is at capacity.

Major upgrades are planned (2012) for both plants and associated networks with Osberstown increasing to 130,000 PE and Leixlip to 150,000 PE.

Applications have been submitted to the EPA for wastewater discharge licenses for all 37 treatment plants controlled or operated by KCC. To date 2 licences have been issued (one each for Leixlip and Athy WWTP's).



## Freedom of Information

The number of applications received in 2009 was 28 of which 2 were requests for personal information.

Requests were dealt with as follows:

9 requests granted

11 requests part-granted

7 requests refused

1 request was withdrawn and dealt with outside FOI

There were 3 applications for internal review and no appeals lodged with the Information Commissioner.

# Measuring Up

The following pages from our service indicators report give a picture of the county and the council's work in 2009.

Nationwide service indicators for local authorities were introduced in 2003 and applied formally in 2004. From 2008 there are 46 local authority service indicators, including a number of new indicators, some deletions and amendments. The tables below show the 2009 results for Kildare County Council.

The indicators give a picture of how the council performed 46 of its functions. While this information is useful for citizens, government departments and for the council itself, it must be borne in mind that the indicators are not balanced between one local authority and another to take account of disparities in resources, especially in funding.

Community Participation and Co-operation	
CP 1	% of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme
	53.45%

CP 2	Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum
	600

Corporate Issues			
Sick Leave			
C 1	% of working days lost to sickness absence through:	Certified leave	Uncertified leave
		5.43	0.78
Staff Training			
C 2	Expenditure on training and development as a % of total payroll costs		
	4.28		

Environmental Services			
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Unaccounted For Water							
E1	Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for						
Drinking Water Analysis							
E2 -	A. Percentage of drinking water analyses results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:				Public schemes	Private schemes (where appropriate)	
					99.80	95.00	
Fire Service							
F1	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of Fire				Full-time stations	Part-time stations (retained fire services)	
					N/A	5.78	
	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of all other emergency incidents				N/A	6.17	
F2	Percentage of attendance at Scenes	A.First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	B.First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	C.First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	D. First attendance at scene within 10 minutes all other emergency incidents	E. First attendance at scene within 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	F. First attendance at scene after 20 minutes
		30.43	56.49	13.08	21.56	63.44	15.00
Fire Safety Certificates – Fire Prevention							
F3	A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received		B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed		C. Total number of applications deemed invalid		
	191		206		5		
Household Segregated Waste							
E3	A.Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables				B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics		
	97.44				33.68		

Household Waste Sent for Recycling						
E4	A. Percentage of Household Waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling		C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)		
	32.98	21,083		6,230		
Household waste sent for Landfill:						
E5	Tonnage					
	Percentage : 67.02					
Recycling Facilities						
E6	Total number of facilities:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	43	39	48	126	2	2
E6	Total number of locations for recycling per 5000 or the population:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	1.15	1.04	1.28	3.38	0.053	0.053
	Number of bring sites:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	41	37	46	124	0	0
E6	Number of civic amenity sites:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	2	2	2	2	2	2
Litter Wardens						
E7	Total number of litter wardens:	Full-Time	Part-Time	Number of Litter Wardens (both Full-Time and Part-Time) per 5000 population		
		1	8	0.2419		

Litter Prosecutions							
E7	Number of on-the-spot fines issued	Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on the spot fines	Number of on the spot fines paid	Number of notices issued (under sections 9,15,16,17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	Total number of prosecutions taken(all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	Total Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)
	1364	250	47	638	43	252	47
Litter Pollution							
E7	Percentage of areas within the local authority that are:	Unpolluted ( litter-free)	Slightly polluted with litter	Moderately polluted ( with litter)	Significantly polluted (with litter)	Grossly polluted (with litter)	
		25	25	50	0	0	
Environmental Complaints and Enforcement							
E8	Environmental Complaints and Enforcement:	Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air-pollution)	Number of complaints investigated	Number of enforcement procedures taken	Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary		
		1934	1736	1474	1559		
School Environmental Campaigns							
E9	Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns:	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools				
		82.6	69.2				

Housing					
Housing Vacancies					
H1	Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	Total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	Overall % of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment schemes)	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	% of empty dwellings available for letting
	3,420	3,418	1.65	79.2	20.8
H2	Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting (in weeks)				
	6.9				
H3	Number of repairs completed as a % of the number of valid repair requests received				
	95.61				
H4	Total number of Traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local Traveller Accommodation Programme.				
	70.5				
H5	Enforcement of standards in private rented sector				
	A. Total number of registered tenancies			8,549	
	B. Number of dwelling units inspected			473	
	C. Number of inspections carried out			659	
	D. Number of dwelling units inspected as a percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as a percentage of A)			5.53	
H6	Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability				
	A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) , from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision of the application.			3.5	
	B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application, to the date of decision on the application.			8	

H7	.Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses	
	A. Total number of new local authority tenants	234
	B. Percentage of new local authority tenants, who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

## Library Services

### Public Opening Hours

L 1	Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries	Percentage of full-time libraries that have lunchtime openings	Percentage of full-time libraries that have evening openings	Percentage of full-time libraries that have Saturday openings
	36.76	12.85	66.66	100	66.66

### Library Visits

L 2	Number of visits to full-time libraries per 1000 of the population
	2821.77

### Library Stock

L 3	A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population	Number of items issued per head of population (county/citywide) for books	Number of items issued per head of population (county/citywide) for other items
	2.69	2.67	0.46

### Internet access

L 4	Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population
	212.44

## Motor Tax

M1	Number and % of motor tax transactions which are dealt with:	Over the counter	Are dealt with by post	Number that are dealt with in other ways (e.g. on-line or phone)	
		103,147 %41.70	25,510 %10.31	118,712 47.99%	
M2	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:	On the same day	On the third day or less	On the fifth day or less	Over five days
		3,421	7,907	3,860	10,322

M2	% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:		On the same day	On the third day or less	On the fifth day or less	Over five days
			13.41	31.00	15.13	40.46
M3	Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications					
	A.Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the applications	B. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of application	C. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of application		D. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of application	
	489	15,518	3,356		516	
	E.Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of application	F. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of application	G. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of application		H. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	
	2.46	78.06	16.88		22.60	
M4 Public Opening Hours	Average Number of Opening Hours Per Week		30			

Planning and Building Control					
Planning Applications					
P1 A	Number of applications decided:	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		447	95	947	38
P1 B	Number of decisions decided within 8 weeks	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		139	24	439	13



P1 C	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		308	70	508	25	
P1 D	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		0	1	0	0	
P1 E	Average length of time (in days) taken to determine an application where further information is sought (days):	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		75.33	81.16	81	90.5	
P1 F	% of Grants	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		65	71	87	84	
P1 G	% of Refusals	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		35	29	13	16	
P1 H	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		88	52	76	89	
P1 I	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA	
		12	48	24	11	
Planning Enforcement						
P2	A.Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	B.Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	C.Number of enforcement procedures taken through negotiations	D.Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	E.Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement	F. Number of prosecutions
	315	41	58	170	65	3

Planning Public Opening Hours			
P3	Public opening hours - Average number of opening hours per week		
	35		
Pre-Planning Consultation			
P4	A.Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held		
	297		
P4B	Average length of time (in days) from the request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation.	18	
Planning – New Buildings Inspected			
P5	Building inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	34	
Taking Estates in Charge			
P6	A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers) were on hands at the beginning:	33	
	B. The number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question:	20	
	C. Number of dwellings in respect of column B	1,317	
	D. Percentage of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	21	
	E.Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0	
	F. Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	1	
Recreational Services			
Children's Playgrounds			
Rec 1	Number of children's playgrounds:	directly provided by the local authority	facilitated by the local authority
		7	1
Swimming Pools			
Rec 1	Number of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities		
	794,400		

Revenue				
Housing Rent				
Rev 1	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	% of arrears 4-6 weeks old	% of arrears 6-12 weeks old	% of arrears more than 12 weeks old
	84.95	3.61	6.25	86.63
Housing Loans				
Rev 2	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due	Percentage of arrears 4-6 months old	Percentage of arrears 6-12 weeks old	Percentage of arrears more than 12 weeks old
	64.33	.75	1.61	96.62
Commercial Rates				
Rev 3	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due from Commercial Rates			
	87.73			
Refuse Charges				
Rev 4	% of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end			
	82.07			
Non-domestic water charges				
Rev 5	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due for Non- Domestic Water Charges			
	60.66			

<b>Roads</b>		
<b>Road Restoration Programme</b>		
R 1	A. The number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	B. The number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvements grants scheme per annum
	132.61	0

## Members Conferences

### Home and Abroad and Training 2009

<b>Home</b>				
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Cost €</b>	<b>No of Delegates</b>
Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change	Dublin Castle	09.01.2009	461.20	1
UCC 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Business Conference	Clarion Hotel, Cork	20.01.2009	1,664.04	3
Conference on the State and the Law	Conrad Hotel, Dublin	28.01.2009	737.74	1
Merriman Winter School	Meyrick Hotel, Galway	6/8.02.2009	2,726.14	4
AMAI Spring Seminar	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	13/14.02.2009	2,388.49	3
Mid-West Regional Authority Annual Conference	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co Limerick	19/20.02.2009	1,407.44	2
Women of 1916	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford	21.02.2009	777.35	2
20 <sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School	Colmchille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Co Donegal	27/01.03.2009	3,703.98	4
17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co Kerry	4/8.03.2009	3,527.44	4

Theme	Venue	Date	Total Cost €	No of Delegates
Special Olympics Fundraiser Conference	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	06.03.2009	1,016.19	1
Local Sustainable Tourism Management in a Global Economic Slowdown	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarberry, Co Cork	6/8.03.2009	853.53	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> National Renewable Energy Summit 2009	Croke Park Convention Centre, Dublin	24/25.03.2009	1,790.67	1
The Economic and Social Benefits of Preserving our Cultural Heritage	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co Kerry	26/27.03.2009	1,888.50	3
BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference	The Abbey Hotel, Roscommon Town	02.04.2009	662.17	2
ACCC Annual Conference	Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny	2/3.04.2009	1,608.27	3
LAMA – 29 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois	16/17.04.2009	1,807.79	4
National Planning Conference 2009	Whites Hotel, Wexford	23/24.04.2009	3,368.97	4
Europe, Economy and Emigrants – Ireland at the Crossroads	Kingsley Hotel, Cork City	30/02.05.2009	1,899.13	3
25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Environment Conference	Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co Cork	7/8.05.2009	1,694.38	2
National Sustainable Building Conference 2009	Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaoire, Co Dublin	27.05.2009	720.18	1
14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Douglas Hyde Summer School	Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon	4/11.07.2009	1,607.39	2

Theme	Venue	Date	Total Cost €	No of Delegates
Percy French Summer School	Castlecoote House, Castlecoote, Co Roscommon	17/19.07.2009	1,050.02	2
29 <sup>th</sup> Annual MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co Donegal	19/24.07.2009	3,336.82	3
Humbert Summer School	Ballina, Co Mayo	20/23.08.2009	1,857.36	2
AMAI – 96 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2009	Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry	10/12.09.2009	1,905.98	2

<b>Abroad</b>				
Theme	Venue	Date	Total Cost	No of Delegates
Northern Tourism Conference	Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co Antrim	23/24.01.2009	1,636.64	2

<b>Training and Development</b>				
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>No of Delegates</b>
Irish Language Course	Connemara Coast Hotel, Furbo, Co Galway	2/4.01.2009	1,457.39	2
Effective Communications	Days Hotel, Waterford	16/18.01.2009	3,316.05	5
Local Government Planning Service	Granville Hotel, Waterford	23/25.01.2009	1,719.30	3
Information and Communication Technologies for Councillors	Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co Wicklow	6/8.02.2009	1,283.28	2
Renewable Energy Planning for the Future	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	15/17.02.2009	2,937.84	4
Review and Reform of Local Government in Ireland	Bellingham Castle, Castlebellingham, Co Louth	20/21.02.2009	603.28	1
Freedom of Information for Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	20/21.02.2009	1,708.50	3
Understanding Hospital Radio/The Irish National War Memorial: 1919-2009	Green Isle Hotel, Dublin	27/28.02.2009	408.85	1
Climate Change, Alternative Energies and the Nuclear Experience	Raheen House Hotel, Clonmel, Co Tipperary	6/8.03.2009	1,229.98	2
Planning and Development Control Seminar	Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Bushypark, Co Galway	20/22.03.2009	4,472.63	7
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Glengarriff Eccles Hotel, Co Cork	15/17.05.2009	2,697.72	3
Supporting Family Carers	Bellingham Castle, Castlebellingham, Co Louth	29/31.05.2009	1,555.05	2
Planning and Building Energy Regulations	Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford	24/26.07.2009	1,024.13	2
Effective Communications	Connemara Coast Hotel, Furbo, Co Galway	31/02.08.2009	1,649.61	2

Theme	Venue	Date	Total Cost	No of Delegates
Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo	7/9.08.2009	1,711.05	2
Planning and the European Law	Days Hotel, Waterford	4/6.09.2009	1,159.15	2



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year ended 31 December 2009

(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)

## REVENUE ACCOUNT

Expenditure	2009	2008	2007	2006
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	17,477,789	24,034,092	18,626,859	13,352,687
Road Transportation and Safety	28,025,312	33,689,241	34,031,373	32,504,972
Water Supply and Sewerage	27,409,154	26,649,792	24,618,052	23,556,626
Development Incentives and Controls	10,902,049	12,280,863	10,045,829	9,391,304
Environmental Protection	24,388,617	26,109,452	23,719,905	25,319,276
Recreation and Amenity	8,374,092	9,157,433	7,255,724	6,514,413
Agriculture and Education	11,732,699	10,179,094	9,202,631	7,442,306
Miscellaneous Services	8,604,449	6,178,969	4,459,821	5,538,560
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,914,161</b>	<b>148,278,936</b>	<b>131,960,194</b>	<b>123,620,144</b>
<b>Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)</b>				
Housing and Building	15,430,394	17,733,553	12,079,263	10,706,064
Road Transportation and Safety	12,460,058	16,812,689	15,523,719	15,105,106
Water Supply and Sewerage	16,828,457	15,196,356	14,154,284	12,770,919
Development Incentives and Controls	2,701,802	4,249,035	4,657,487	5,948,867
Environmental Protection	12,672,530	15,436,947	14,633,705	14,240,129
Recreation and Amenity	757,151	1,311,827	1,228,726	1,139,886
Agriculture and Education	10,946,502	8,755,946	7,529,489	6,143,346
Miscellaneous Services	4,610,198	2,051,860	2,645,825	2,666,743
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>76,407,092</b>	<b>81,548,213</b>	<b>72,452,498</b>	<b>68,721,059</b>
Urban Authority Accounts	2,802,175	3,177,038	3,074,542	3,040,293
Local Government Fund	23,866,930	28,176,862	26,476,801	23,893,115
County Rates	38,904,510	38,784,510	37,237,974	32,286,656
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,980,707</b>	<b>151,686,623</b>	<b>139,241,815</b>	<b>127,941,123</b>
Transfers to/from Reserves	-6,186,166	-2,523,003	-6,049,695	-3,152,833
Surplus/Deficit for year	6,953,967	884,684	1,231,927	1,168,146
Opening Balance	-5,653,543	-6,463,440	-7,695,366	-8,863,513
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>-4,885,742</b>	<b>-5,578,756</b>	<b>-6,463,440</b>	<b>-7,695,366</b>

<b>CAPITAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	40,496,309	69,966,084	72,807,590	82,837,904
Road Transportation and Safety	112,681,176	142,124,445	136,183,684	177,636,840
Water Supply and Sewerage	26,068,719	16,954,391	23,575,179	46,748,224
Development Incentives and Controls	1,037,884	4,287,189	1,192,101	624,876
Environmental Protection	1,494,164	4,283,469	4,023,769	2,226,639
Recreation and Amenity	4,746,281	2,973,075	4,202,416	1,353,294
Agriculture and Education	321,662	149,334	217,933	
Miscellaneous Services	561,182	8,288,851	739,614	4,537,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,407,377</b>	<b>249,026,838</b>	<b>242,942,286</b>	<b>315,965,495</b>

## Town Local Government

Local government structure in the county includes the county council and the town council's of Athy, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge.

While the five local authorities co-operate in many areas of activity and provide a uniform service, the town councils have each separate legal identities from that of the county council and concomitant independence. Although there are, in some cases, instances of common membership of the governing bodies all of the authorities operate under the managership of the County Manager.

## Athy Town Council



Athy has enjoyed significant growth over the past number of years and now has a population of 9,000 within the town and environs. The economic development of the town is critical to ensure that this growth is sustainable. Many exciting changes have taken place and been proposed over the past year and the Town Council is playing a pivotal role in its growth and development.

### Elected Members and the Executive

Athy Town Council members are Cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin, Leas-Cathaoirleach James Mahon, Councillors Mark Dalton, Richard Daly, John Lawler, Mary O'Sullivan, Thomas Redmond, Mark Wall and Paddy Wright. Councillors Daly and Wall are also elected members of Kildare County Council.

In advance of local elections in June, two longstanding members Councillor Frank English (42 years service) and Councillor Sean Cunnane (15 years service) both retired, while Councillor Tony Egan resigned in April. Eighteen candidates contested the election and the newly elected Council held their first meeting on the 15th June.

Town Manager/ Director of Services: Joe Boland

Town Clerk: Brian O'Gorman

Town Engineer: Diarmuid Donohue

The statutory monthly meeting of the Council takes place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Municipal Offices, Monasterevan Road, Athy.

## Finance

The combined Revenue and Capital expenditure of c. €10.3 million (including revenue expenditure of €4.6million) in 2009 gives an indication of the scale of the contribution Athy Town Council is making to the economic, social, cultural and infrastructural development of the town, through its programmes and policies. The growing population of the town continues to give rise to increased demands on services we provide.

## Housing

The Town Council has a housing stock of 302 housing units, with 27 new homes being added in 2009. Thirty two applicants were housed in new and existing accommodation during the year.

The programme of capital type improvements continued during the year with the gas installation programme continuing and a significant number of vacant units being fully refurbished.



The Ardrew Meadows scheme was completed in 2009. The development was undertaken as an integrated housing project between the Town Council, in conjunction with Kildare County Council and the Respond! Voluntary Housing Association. A total of 86 houses/ apartments and one communal community building were constructed in this mixed tenure scheme.

The Carbery Park Remedial Works Scheme, comprising 24 existing homes and 3 new infill units, was completed during the year.

The Community Warden pilot scheme (funded under the Housing Management Initiative) was completed in August and was particularly successful in progressing a number of initiatives within the town, including establishing and assisting local residents associations, environmental awareness and community schemes. A number of these projects will be continued by the Tenant Liaison Officer, in co-operation with the Rapid Co-ordinator and Athy Joint Policing Committee.

## Planning

Athy Town Council received 34 planning applications in 2009 for the following development types:

Commercial developments	10
Extensions	12
Housing Developments	3
Other applications	9

33 grants of planning permission and 6 refusals were issued in 2009.

A review of the current Town Development Plan is scheduled to commence in April 2010.

## Roads

The completion of the M9 motorway and the associated new link road to Athy (in early 2010) will further emphasise the strategic location of the town in relation to the region and greater Dublin area.

The advancement of the Southern Distributor Road is now being actively progressed. A delegation from both the Town and County Council met the Minister for Transport in March 2009. A revised proposal to progress the project in stages over a 5/ 6 year period is now being considered.

A draft Traffic Management Plan for the town was completed in late 2009 and proposes a number of changes to help improve traffic flow. The statutory period of public consultation commenced in December. Subject to approval and funding, it is proposed to advance the plan on a phased basis.

A number of road and footpath improvements were carried out in the town during the year. A block grant of €177,000 was approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A review of the existing town Parking and Car Park Byelaws (2005) will commence in 2010.

## Water Services

The Town Council maintains and operates the water services (water & sewerage) infrastructure in its administrative area under agreement on behalf of Kildare County Council (Section 85 of Local Government Act, 2001).

Water supply in the town has now been augmented to include supply from the region (Ballymore Eustace). In addition, a small scheme was completed by Kildare County Council (Athy to Bert watermain) during the year. This main will, in turn, be linked to the well-field in Monasterevin and it is expected that works will be completed in early 2010. These measures will significantly reinforce security of supply.



A remediation scheme for the foul sewer network in the town is being progressed and is expected that this will commence in Q1 2010. A comprehensive survey of the existing network was completed and this will determine the scope of works.

## Environment

Athy continued to improve in the national Tidy Towns Competition and the town's 11th anniversary entry recorded a 9 point increase from 2008. The Tidy Towns Sub Committee is progressively working through their 5 year plan (launched in 2008) to make further improvements in the town, with the co-operation of Council, local schools, residents, Athy Chamber and the Shop Athy project. The Tidy Towns Committee, with the Town Council, jointly organise an annual Best Kept Estates/Community Grants presentation evening each December.





The Athy Civic Amenity centre (operated by Kildare County Council) is located on the Dublin Road in the town. The centre continued to record increased usage by the public.

Fourteen bottle banks are positioned on 2 sites within the Town Centre.

The Litter Warden continued to monitor illegal and unauthorised dumping and a significant number of fines were issued in 2009. In addition, the Town Council promote regular local clean-ups and assist residents groups through an annual grants scheme.

## General Projects

- 'Shine Athy' is a new tourism initiative, being rolled out by Tourism Ireland and Failte Ireland and commenced in November. The town is the first in the country to participate in the pilot project, which aims to deliver an authentic visitor experience by focusing on four simple behaviours – Happy, Interested, Natural and Expert. The Town Council is a lead agency in the development of this initiative.
- A new Interreg IV 'Brand' project was secured for Athy during the year and a three year programme is being developed, in partnership with other areas in Dun Laoghaire, Hollyhead and Denbigshire, as part of the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013.
- RAPID (Regenerating Areas through Planning Investment and Development) is continuing in the town and has now developed 6 strategic themes- Physical environment; Crime, safety and anti-social behaviour; Family support; Health; Education; and Training & Employment. The Town Council is working closely with the partner agencies to deliver the best outputs for the community.
- Athy was selected as a pilot town for the national historical trails scheme. Funding was approved by Failte Ireland and signage works were completed by the Town Council in Summer 2009.

- The new Youth Café project at was opened on a phased basis following renovation works to the former dispensary building at Meeting Lane. The project was promoted by the Athy Action for Youth (a Town Council Sub Committee) and is now an important amenity for local youth.
- Athy Town Council hosted two civic receptions in 2009 to mark significant achievements in the town. The first reception was to welcome the return of the National Ploughing Championships to Athy, while the second reception celebrated the success of Athy's Charmaine Kenny, who was chosen as the 'Rose of Tralee 2009'.
- The Athy Town Promoters group was formed, in advance of the National Ploughing Championships, to ensure a concerted effort was made to positively promote the town. The Town Council, in conjunction with the Athy Chamber, the Shop Athy Project and the Tidy Towns Committee provided a town promotional stand at the championships and also jointly organised a free public concert in the town to coincide with the event. The Promoters group have continued to collaborate on joint initiatives and organised a halloween festival and the first 'Athy Chocolate Festival' in early December.
- The development of the Methodist Church (Woodstock Street) as a local arts facility/ theatre was progressed by the Town Council's Arts Sub Committee and the Kildare Arts Service during 2009. The project is an outstanding example of community participation and when works are completed will allow the facility to be used jointly by the Methodist community and the new Athy Community Arts Company.
- The Athy Heritage Centre was accepted onto the Museum Standards Programme of Ireland in December. This is an accelerated programme to allow such facilities become fully accredited museums over a period of time. The Town Council support the centre with an annual grant allocation and is also represented on the board of directors.
- The Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum (AIDEF) met on a number of occasions during 2009 and a review of the forum's objectives and membership has commenced to maximise development opportunities for the town into the future.

- The Athy Community Enterprise Centre continues to assist start-up and growing enterprises locally through the provision of units and serviced office accommodation at preferential rates for a 3 year period. The centre, which was developed through the AIDEF, was opened in 2004.

## **Joint Policing Committee**

The Athy Joint Policing Committee was established in 2006 (under the Garda Siochana Act 2005 as part of a pilot scheme). The success of the scheme in the initial areas has led to the establishment of further committees on a countrywide basis. The Athy JPC currently has members representing Athy Town Council, Gardai, Oireachtas members and the Community.

The Athy JPC met on 4 occasions in 2009 and discussed issues relating to traffic management, anti-social behaviour, drugs/ alcohol abuse, control of horses and the town market. A review of the existing Control of Alcohol Byelaws was recommended and the statutory process was commenced by the Council.

## **Town Twinning**

Athy is twinned with Grandvilliers (located in the Picardy region of France, north of Paris). The charters were formally signed in November 2004 in France and March 2005 in Athy. The Town Twinning Sub-Committee of the Council work closely with our partners in France and organise an annual twinning event. In addition, a number of cross cultural exchange projects are organised to allow citizens of both towns engage in educational, business and social activities in the respective towns.

In June 2009, a delegation of 30 people from Grandvilliers and environs visited Athy and participated in a number of cultural events in the town which took place at the Town Council, Heritage Centre, Teach Emmanuel, Youth Café and Women's Integrated Network (Stanhope Place). The visitors also viewed the Tri Athy triathlon during their stay.



Local students visited France in July and took part in a summer university project. Eleven French students of equine and traditional agriculture undertook a 3 week work placement in Athy during August and September.

### **New Swimming Pool/ Leisure Centre**

Construction work on the new Athy Leisure Centre at Greenhills, which includes a 25m swimming pool, was completed and the new facility was opened to the public in March. The project, which was funded by Kildare County Council, the Town Council and Government grants, is being managed by Kildare Sports and Leisure Services.

## **Former Councillor Frank English, RIP**

It was with great sadness that the Council learned of the passing of former Councillor Frank English on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. Frank had served as a Council member for 42 years, until his retirement in June 2009, and had held the position of Cathaoirleach on 6 occasions during his term.

At a special meeting of the Council, members acknowledged the significant contribution Frank had made to the development of the town and his work with a large number of local and community organisations during his life. His friendly personality allowed work to be conducted in a positive manner with cross party support at all times.

## Athy Town Council - Local Elections 2009

### Spending & Donations

As required under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, the following list includes the aggregate election expenditure and aggregate donations in respect of each candidate:

Name	Expenditure (€)	Donation (€)
Aoife Breslin	2,369.62	-
Kathleen Cash	1,992.60	-
Jo Coyle	5,310.56	-
Richard Daly	3,580.48	-
Des Dalton	2,953.00	-
Mark Dalton	6,700.00	-
Brian Dooley	1,280.00	-
Eugene Doyle	2,481.03	-
Conor English	800.00	-
James Mahon	3,340.92	-
Mary O'Sullivan	3,447.55	-
Philip Quinn	350.00	-
Thomas Redmond	4,009.62	-
Frances Soney Ituen	2,178.04	-
John Lawler	5,797.73	-
Mark Wall	149.76	-
Don Watchorn	2,369.62	-
Paddy Wright	190.00	-

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



## **Droichead Nua Town Council – 2009 Review of Operations**

### **Housing**

The Town Council continued to administer its housing function in 2009. Revenue collection and housing maintenance services were provided for the Council's 26 houses in Newbridge.

### **Environment**

The Town Council continues to make funding available to the Tidy Towns Committee and this year a new lawn mower was purchased for use by the Tidy Towns in the Town Park / Liffey side Amenity area. Newbridge won an award from IBAL (Irish Business against Litter) for achieving litter free status in the town for the second consecutive year. The Christmas lighting continued to be a feature of the Town Council activities in 2009.

### **Roads**

A programme of footpath repairs took place during the year, financed by grants from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. It is anticipated that this will be continued during 2010. Kildare County Council effected further improvements to footpaths and the approach roads from the proceeds of its pay parking funds.

## **Representational Functions**

### **Twinning with Bad Lippspringe**

Newbridge and Bad Lippspringe have been organising meetings for the past eleven years. There is co-operation between various sporting, cultural, community, and historical groups in the town. Communication between these groups leads to well organised events throughout the visit. Activities were arranged over the weekend to mark the occasion. Newbridge hosted a delegation of over 25 German visitors in May 2009.

### **Twinning with Ocala**

In February 2009 a visit to Ocala, for the civic twinning ceremony, involving the two communities took place. The delegation of 16 people included business and equine representatives and were led by Mayor Michael Deely.

### **Civic Receptions**

The Town Council held a very successful civic reception for KARE, Ms Orla Tinsley and Cllr John O'Neill during 2009.

### **Other Functions**

The Town Council offered financial support and assistance to local organisations in 2009. These included groups involved with the Newbridge Tidy Towns, Community Games, Community Grants, Newbridge Twinning and St. Patrick's Day Festival. Financial assistance for these organisations will be a feature of the annual budget for the forthcoming year.



During 2009 Mayor Willie Hamilton representing the Council, joined the Newbridge Fair Trade committee.



## Newbridge Town Council - Local Elections 2009

### Spending & Donations

As required under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, the following list includes the aggregate election expenditure and aggregate donations in respect of each candidate:

Name	Expenditure €
Emma Kiernan	3,876.60
Michael "Spike" Nolan	3,075.43
Ian Hennessy	3,876.59
Sean Downey	1,709.00
Willie Hamilton	424.99
Pat Black	5,930.56
Colm Feeney	1,571.13
Fiona O'Loughlin	2,581.98
Catherine Sweeney	Nil
Dermot Coates	4,955.40
Paddy Kennedy	10,230.11
Mick Deely	1,032.75
Murty Aspell	2,540.00
Willie Crowley	750.00
Damien Molyneaux	1,200.00

## Leixlip Town Council 2009

Leixlip Town Commissioners was established in 1988. Leixlip has a current population of approximately 17,000 compared with a population of approximately 1,000 30 years ago. The Local Government Act 2001 provided Town Council status to former Town Commissions.

### Elected Members

Councillors Teresa Byrne, Bernard Caldwell, Shane Fitzgerald, Anthony Larkin, Catherine Murphy, Joseph Neville, Colm Purcell, Sean Purcell and Pat Burke-Walsh are the elected members. Councillor Teresa Byrne was elected Cathaoirleach in June 2009 for a term of one year. Councillor's Catherine Murphy and Colm Purcell are also elected members of Kildare County Council.

The Town Clerk, Siobhán Barry, has her offices in Newtown House, Captain's Hill and the Town Council pay an annual rent of €25,000 (plus expenses) to Leixlip Youth Project Group for use of the premises. The Council meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chamber and meetings are open to the public and press.

Mr Peter Minnock, Director of Services, Kildare County Council, is Town Manager.

### Budget

The Budget for 2009 was €426,500 and this funding is received from Kildare County Council and Local Government Fund. The council do much of its work through the following sub-committees; Town Improvement, Arts Heritage and Tourism, Environment and Waste Management, Policing, Industry, Commerce and Employment, Traffic and Transport, Public Lighting, Education, Sport and Leisure Affairs

## **Industry, Commerce and Employment**

The members of this committee are Councillors Catherine Murphy (convenor), Joe Neville, Shane Fitzgerald. The aims of this committee are to promote Leixlip as a prime area to locate new industries and start-up businesses, a special place to shop and conduct business and to help those unemployed.

An Information Evening took place on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in The Liffey Valley House Hotel. The event was aimed at those unemployed or under-employed and was a positive informative evening involving 3 speakers. The speakers included David Jones, Author and founder of Job Seekers union, Christine Courtney College Principal and owner of Obus School Healing Therapies and Donal Dalton COE of Kildare County Enterprise Board. The committee plans similar events for 2010.

## **Joint Policing Committee**

This year saw the establishment of the Joint Policing Committee. The members of the committee include the nine Town Council members, Minister Áine Brady, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Deputy Emmet Stagg, Superintendent Gerry Giblin, Pat Cooney and Peter Minnock. The inaugural meeting of the committee was held in December and Councillor Joe Neville was elected chairperson for two years. The role of the committee is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and Senior Garda Officers, with the participation of the Oireachtas Members and community interests can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. All of the meetings are open to the public and documents are available on the website [www.kildarejointpolicing.ie](http://www.kildarejointpolicing.ie).

## **Tidy Estates**

Yvonne O'Connor Horticulturist Designer/Consultant with Simon Wallace, Kildare County Council judged the estates in July; the Town Clerk accompanied them. There were 17 entrants. The competition was divided into three categories small - under 100 houses, medium – 100 to 250 houses and large – over 250 houses.

The Cathaoirleach, Teresa Byrne presented the winners with their prizes on 24<sup>th</sup> September in the Springfield Hotel. The results were as follows:

Best Small Estate; Winner - Loughmona Park and Drive,

Second -Green Lane/Easton Road,

Third - Rockingham.

Best Medium Estate; Winner - Leixlip Park,

Best Large Estate; Winner - Castletown.

Second – Ryevale Lawns

Most Improved Estate – Riverforest View

Best New Entry – Highfield Park.

The Leixlip Garden Centre Perpetual Trophy was presented to Ryemont Abbey as the best overall estate.



Open Space Grants are allocated for amenity type work within estates and payment is made upon producing receipt for payment for works completed. The total amount granted was €5,300.

## Arts, Heritage and Tourism

Members: Councillors Shane Fitzgerald (convenor) Joe Neville and Pat Burke-Walsh. Non-Council members: Conor O'Brien, Denis McCarthy, Matt Connolly, Laura Moriarty, Catriona Kiely. The purpose of this committee is to promote the arts and tourism and to protect our heritage. The committee organised the Guinness 250 celebrations on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The events included a performance in Leixlip Castle by the Bradán Players, a walking tour by historian Conor O'Brien, a presentation of the original Guinness lease to the Hon. Desmond Guinness. Councillor Teresa Byrne made a presentation of the Leixlip Crest to the Hon. Desmond Guinness.



The tour stopped at Murphy's where the Bradán Players Leixlip performed the sketch "What's the Pint". The tour arrived in the Courtyard Hotel where at 17.59 they Saluted Arthur in the company of his descendents.

The celebration acknowledged the achievement of Arthur and his descendants, the corporate responsibility established by the company and saluted a native of North Kildare.

## Front Gardens

The council run a Front Garden competition each year. Yvonne O'Connor Designer/Horticulturalist with Simon Wallace, Kildare County Council, judged the gardens in July.



### **The winners were as follows:**

First	John & Valerie, Malone, 73 Rose Cottage
Second	O'Connor family, 56 Castletown
Third	Raymond and Deirdre Colreavy, 200 Ryevale Lawns
Fourth	Kathleen Poynton, 181 Glendale Meadows
Fifth	Eamon and Catherine Farrell, 1027 Avondale
Sixth	Marian Lyons, 39 Riverforest

Certificates of merit were presented to a selection of gardens judged to receive special commendation.

### **Adopt an Area**

In conjunction with Intel and Hewlett Packard the council run an 'Adopt an Area' scheme each year. The aim of the competition is to encourage community groups to take responsibility for an area in the town that is outside estates over the summer period and to continue maintenance of the area. This year there was an additional scheme. Scheme 1 was for areas that had not been adopted before. Scheme 2 was for areas that have been adopted previously and would continue to be maintained from March until October.



Hewlett Packard sponsored the prizes; cameras were presented to each person on the winning groups.

## Town Improvements

The Council provided window boxes, hanging baskets and ground planting in the town centre, Amenity Centre and Newtown House. Window boxes were provided free of charge to most premises along the main street; hanging baskets were located around the town and at the Amenity Centre, large tubs were provided on the main street and window boxes provided at Newtown House.

Work was completed this year on the first phase of the upgrading of William Rowantree Park. This work consisted of the installation of new paving, and a handrail along the river towpath. In the area adjoining the town car park new seating and a paved area with a mosaic were constructed along with planting along the boundary with the car park. A new path connecting the seating area through the car park to the Main Street was also added as part of the works.

## Community Grants

The Council provided a community grants scheme again in 2009. A budget of €10,000 was provided. Grants were allocated to community groups as follows:

Avondale Residents Association	€1,300
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The Town Council give grants to the following committees each year to support their work; Leixlip Festival €10,000, Christmas Lights €13,900, Leixlip Twinning Association €8,000 and Tidy Towns €7,500.

## Leixlip SPA Well

Councillors Shane Fitzgerald and Anthony Larkin represent the Town Council on the Spa Committee. The following bodies are also represented on the committee; Historic Monuments Advisory Committee, Dublin Naturalist Field Club, Conservation Architect, Former Secretary of An Taisce, National Parks & Wildlife Services, Leixlip Angling Development Society and Irish Wildlife Services.





Leixlip Spa Committee 2009

In 2009 grants were received from the Heritage Council to carry out a scrub removal programme and the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the site. Both of these pieces of work have been completed. The Conservation Management Plan will help to inform the future management of the site and sets out a number of objectives for the future conservation and management of the site. Intel gave a grant of \$15,000 towards to work at the Spa.

## Community and Environmental Projects

The council provide a budget each year for community and environmental type projects and have a person contracted to the council to carry out these works. Works include hedge cutting, mowing grass, spraying weeds, leaf/debris cleaning from pathways etc, painting, replacing/repairing bins, removing graffiti from around the town. The budget provided for this work was €30,000.

## Civic Awards

The award scheme is to promote and foster a community spirit in Leixlip and create a sense of identity. Civic Awards are held annually and the council invite the public to nominate people whose achievements brought honour to Leixlip. The Cathaoirleach presented scrolls to the award recipients at a function in Leixlip House Hotel as follows:

Social	Eimear Foley and Ciara Foley
Sporting	Ian Taylor
Cultural	James Lawless
Business	Brendan Slattery
Non-Resident	Eoin Rheinisch



Ian Taylor – Sporting Award 2009

## Tree Pruning

A budget of €12,000 was allocated which allowed for tree pruning to be carried out at the following locations:

Duncarraig, Glendale Meadows, Ryevale Lawns, The Mall, Glendale Meadows, Riverforest View and Oaklawn West.

## Presentation

In December the Cathaoirleach presented 3 retiring members of the Garda Siochana with the Leixlip Crest. Sergeant George Carey served in Leixlip since 1997, Sergeant Jim O’Sullivan served in Leixlip since 2001 and Garda Barry Roche since 1997. The Cathaoirleach and members wished them well and thanked them for the work in Leixlip.

## Bandon Town Council

A delegation from the Town Council, including the Cathaoirleach Colm Purcell visited Bandon Town Council during the year. The Town Council delegation on visit to Colaiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon. This is one of the few secondary schools to have green flag status.



## Conferences

Councillors Colm Purcell and Bernard Caldwell attended the AMAI spring conference in Donegal. At the Annual General Meeting, Councillor Teresa Byrne was elected as a delegate to the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland. She attended the AMAI Conference held in Sligo September.

## IPBMI

The Councillors' delegate Councillor Bernard Caldwell attended the AGM of the IPBMI in May. At the Annual General Meeting Councillor Pat Burke-Walsh was elected as a delegate to the IPBMI.

## Spending and Donations

As required under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 the following list includes the aggregate election expenditure and aggregate donations in respect of each candidate.

Name	Expenditure
	€
Teresa Byrne	2,233.00
Bernard Caldwell	2,993.80
Shane Fitzgerald	5,995.00
Anthony Larkin	1,239.30
Paul Kelly	7,472.74
Catherine Murphy	1,064.31
Denis McCarthy	1,715.61
Laura Moriarty	6,504.81
Gerry McDonagh	1,945.42
Joe Neville	6,113.81
Kevin O'Connor	1,711.90
Colm Purcell	5,614.64
Sean Purcell	2,663.70
Pat Burke-Walsh	2,148.63



# **NAAS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2009**







Naas, County Kildare's county town that straddles the canal in the heart of the county has a population in excess of 20,000 and was previously the seat of the Kings of Leinster. The town sits just off one of the country's main arterial routes that gives citizens easy access to the Capital and while providing local attractions such as horse racing, motor racing and golf. Naas has managed to retain its unique character with valued heritage and attractive built environment while embracing the challenges of an austere economic climate and constantly seeking to build strong inclusive communities that promote a sense of place and belonging.

#### **Naas Town Council - Elected Members and the Executive**



Naas Town Council has nine elected members who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall to decide policy and conduct the business of the Council. Meetings are open to the press and public. This Council is currently serving a term of five years having been elected in June 2009. Councillors Callaghan, Scully and Moore are also Members of Kildare County Council. Naas Town Council Members are also represented on a number of local community groups as well as the County Council Strategic Policy Committees.



**Back row;** Cllr. Alan O Kelly, Cllr. Darren Scully, Cllr. Willie Callaghan, Cllr Ger Dunne, Cllr Seamie Moore  
**Front row;** Cllr. Emer Mc Daid, Mayor Pat Clear, Cllr. Anne Breen, Cllr. Riognagh Bracken

## Naas Joint Policing Committee

The Naas Joint Policing Committee was established in November 2009 comprising of nineteen Members including the nine Naas Town Council Members, Three Members of the Oireachtas, three Community and Voluntary sector representatives, two Garda Officers and two Council Officials. The Community representatives were appointed following a public notice seeking expressions of interest from the community and voluntary sector.

The Joint Policing Committee provides a forum where the Local Authority and the senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of the town, with the participation of Oireachtas Members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

Further details can be obtained from the JPC's website  
<http://kildarejointpolicing.ie>

Naas Town Council has strived over the last year to ensure that the demands for an increased level of service could be maintained while meeting the challenges of the economic downturn and the resulting financial and human resource restrictions. Naas Town Council acknowledge the co-operation and support received from Kildare County Council, Government Agencies, Commercial sectors and the local community in maintaining Council services. The following report will take a look at the progress made over the last year by Naas Town Council in the provision of services and the promotion and development of the Town.

## **Budget**

The population of Naas has increased considerably over recent years and this increase in population has given rise to greater expectations for projects to be delivered by the Council and a higher standard in service provision. Previous budgets for Naas Town Council would have provided for increases in services and new Work Programme Initiatives being developed year on year. However in 2009 the Council had to recognise the economic climate in which the Council operated had changed considerably and the 2009 Budget reflected this reality.

The 2009 Budget provided for a total expenditure of €11,212,412 and income of €3,528,705. The allocation from the Local Government fund was €1,533,822 leaving a balance of €6,149,885 to be levied from Commercial Rates requiring an annual rate on valuation of 69.14 which represented an increase of 1.8% on the 2008 rate.

The Capital Programme report for the three-year period 2009 – 2011 was brought before the Members early in 2009 with anticipated expenditure of €51 million euro. The sources of capital funding – government grants, valuations on proceeds from the prospective sale of assets and development contributions had significantly reduced on previous years and the contracted funding base was reflected in the planned Capital Programme which had been halved from the previous Capital Programme brought before the Members.



## Projects

2009 was a challenging year for the commencement of projects by Naas Town Council for the Town and the following is a brief synopsis of their progress:

### Naas Heritage and History Trail

The Historic Town Trails for Naas was officially launched in September 2009. A total of five different trails starting at the Town Hall have been established that help focus visitors' attention on the historic significance of Naas with the information boards and signage providing a comprehensive source of guidance for visitors and townspeople alike seeking out information on the history of our town. The aim was to maximise the tourism potential of Naas as a Historic Town and enhance our visitors' overall experience. Funding was provided by Naas Town Council with support from Fáilte Ireland.



### Naas Wildlife and Habitat Information Boards

In recognition of the fact that Naas is one of the few towns of its size with a large diversification of habitats in its lakes, streams, parks and wooded areas the Town Council approved the production of a series of Wildlife & Habitat information boards around the town. Fourteen of these Naas Wildlife and Habitat Information boards located in around the lakes area and the Canal were erected in the last



### **Corban's Lane/Friary Road – Road Improvement Scheme**

The Members approved the Corban's Lane/Friary Road- Road Improvement scheme in June 2008 which would involve considerable improvements to the roads and footpaths in the vicinity of the new Naas shopping centre at Corban's Lane. The Scheme was appealed and a decision has yet to be made by An Bord Pleanala.

### **Naas Southern Interceptor Sewer**

The Members of Naas Town Council approved the Part 8 Public Consultation Process for proposals to construct two pumping stations at the Ballymore Road and the Blessington Road as part of the Naas Southern Interceptor Sewer project. These pumping stations assist in transferring foul water flows from the catchment to the existing Osberstown Waste Water Treatment Plant. Both pumping stations were commissioned early in 2009.

### **Universal Access Naas Town Hall**

The public consultation process for the delivery of a universal access to Naas Town Hall commenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Naas Town Council procured the services of McCarthy O'Hora Architects to put together draft plans for consideration and following a detailed assessment the final draft was decided on and the plans were placed on public display with submissions invited until the 25 February 2010.



### Lakes Dredging Project

Major dredging works on the three lakes at Fairgreen/Craddockstown are required to sustain the future use and functionality of the lakes as both a wildlife habitat and sustainable drainage system. Naas Town Council allocated funding in 2009 as well as 2010 towards the project. It is proposed to work closely with the Heritage Officer of Kildare County Council in relation to ensuring that the works are planned and delivered in an environmentally friendly way.

### New Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre



The new state of the art swimming pool with a sauna/steam room, fitness suite and aerobic studio at Caragh Road was opened to the public in early 2009 and has received a glowing reception from all in terms of the building design and functionality. The official opening was performed by Minister Cullen, T.D. on the 16 October 2009. Naas Town Council contributed €2.5 million towards the provision of this new state of the art facility. Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd. operates the pool on behalf of Kildare County Council.



## **Graffiti Removal**

Naas Town Council operates its own graffiti removal machine. In addition to removing graffiti this machine is also used to power wash public areas and remove gum. In 2009 Naas Town Council's priority was to tackle graffiti in public areas however the Town Council also worked with Resident Associations in tackling graffiti in private estates by providing graffiti removal kits to Residents Associations.

## **Naas Citizens Information centre**

Naas Town Council undertook improvement works to the Old Motor Tax Office on Basin Street in order to facilitate the lease of the ground floor to Naas Citizens Information centre. The works were completed in September 2009 and the Naas Citizens Information Centre is operating four days a week.

## **Festival Fun**

### **Family Fun Day**

Naas Town Council hosted a fun filled Family Day on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August with entertainment provided by a number of local groups including Jenny Brady School of Dance, Naas Panthers Gymnastic Displays and the Bui Bolg Puppets and Jousting Show. Tricky Tricksters, the pet corner, face painting, balloon making and bouncy castles proved hugely popular with younger children while the Harley Davison Bike Display and vehicles from the Defense Forces, Gardai and Fire Brigade were popular with parents. The event was organised by the Naas Town Council Festival's Committee with co-operation received from Kildare Civil Defence and Kildare County Council.



### Easter Parade

One of the biggest annual events is the Naas Easter Parade. Proving its widespread appeal, thousands of people viewed the parade of around 50 countries that came from both local and visiting community and sporting groups as well as local businesses. The parade is organised by Willie Callaghan with Naas Town Council supporting the event with operational and financial assistance.

## **Twinning in Naas**

The twinning function in Naas is carried out by the Naas Twinning Group with support from Naas Town Council. Naas is twinned with five towns, Allaire in France, Dillingen in Germany, St. David's in Wales, Casalattico in Italy and Omaha in the United States.

It was a busy year for the Twinning Group with two visits from Dillingen during the year, one at Easter, led by their Mayor, Frank Kunz, when their band participated in our town's Easter parade and another visit in August when a group participated in a tennis tournament in the Naas Lawn Tennis Club. Another group, including a junior rugby team, from St. David's also visited Naas at Easter. A further group of Scouts from Omaha visited Naas in late October who were hosted by the Naas Scout Group.

A group travelled from Naas to Allaire and Redon for the Fête de Châtaignes Festival in October where the group were received by the Mayors of Allaire and Payac. The trip was a great success with the Nás na Ríogh Set Dancers performing at the Fête in Redon. The trip also included a brief visit to Nantes.

## **Planning and Development for Naas**

### **Review of the Naas Town Development Plan**

# **NAAS TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017**



In accordance with Sections 11 and 12 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, Naas Town Council commenced the review of the Naas Town Development Plan in May 2009. Work will continue on the preparation of the plan throughout 2010 until its final adoption in early 2011. The Development Plan sets out the Council's strategy for the planning and development of Naas and looks to develop the economic, cultural and environmental assets of the Town.

### **Pre Planning Meetings**

Pre Planning meetings are mainly designed to deal with prospective applicants for large scale residential or commercial developments. Naas Town Council held 19 pre-planning meetings in 2009 and it is the intention of the Council to continue this practice as it has both benefits for the organisation and the applicant in ensuring Naas is developed appropriately and in accordance with the Naas Development Plan 2005-2011.

### **Planning Applications**

Naas Town Council received ninety-eight valid planning applications in 2009. Permission was granted for eighty-six applications and permission was refused for ten applications. Seventeen appeals were determined by An Bord Pleanála with eleven being confirmed and six being reversed.

### **Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions**

Naas Town Council received twenty complaints of unauthorised development in 2009 an increase of 25% on the 2008 figure. Eighteen warning letters were issued with one enforcement notice served for unauthorised development.

### **Development Contribution Scheme**

The current scheme was adopted by Naas Town Council in March 2004. Its purpose is to clearly identify the manner in which development contributions are levied and how the amounts collected are spent. The scheme operated for a seven year period and will be reviewed in 2011.

### **Derelict Sites 2009**

Naas currently is investigating fifty sites under Derelict Sites Legislation. Naas has two properties listed on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2009 having removed one following improvement works.

### **Development Control**

Considerable progress is being made in the area of Taking in Charge. The Town Council took eleven estates in charge in 2009 with progress being made on an additional twenty seven.



## The Environment and Waste Management

### Litter Management Plan

The Litter Management Plan adopted in 2008 sets out Naas Town Council's objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to encourage public awareness of the litter problem, with particular emphasis on educational and information strategies aimed at young people. The plan includes information on;

- existing litter prevention and control measures being carried out by the Council
- the policies and objectives of the Council in relation to the prevention and control of litter
- litter prevention and control activities being carried out by agencies other than the Council
- recycling and recovery facilities provided for public use
- the Council's enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

### Waste Disposal

The refuse collection service in Naas is provided by private operators who are licensed by Kildare County Council. Naas Town Council is responsible for 4 recycling centres at the following locations.

- Fairgreen
- Ballycane Church Car Park
- Áras Chill Dara
- Tesco Shopping Centre

### Anti Litter Committee

Naas has a proactive Anti Litter Committee who is committed to improving the appearance of Naas, creating greater awareness and tackling areas of the town prone to litter. Street sweeping in the town continues to take place 7 days a week and public areas such as the Monread District Park and the Lakes area are swept and cleaned 3 times a week.

The Council also continues to actively work with the Tidy Towns Group and Residents Associations in tackling litter in the town and in presenting the town in its best appearance. Naas Town Council in collaboration with Naas Tidy Towns Committee held its "Spring Clean-Up Week" from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April. "The Big Clean Up" also took place from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

The Council supported both campaigns through the provision of bags, gloves and litter-pickers and also assisted in the collection and disposing of organised litter collections. Residents Associations interested in Graffiti Removal Kits were provided with them in late 2009 and Pooper Bag Dispensing Units will be given out in early 2010.

Both of these initiatives were funded by NTC and were provided free of charge to the interested parties. Naas received a bronze medal in the National Tidy Towns Competition for the level of improvements shown in the Town.

### **Enforcement and Fines**

Our Environment Department operate an environmental complaints database whereby all complaints are logged for report and an appropriate action assigned. In 2009 we received 251 complaints and all 251 cases were investigated. Following investigation appropriate action whether through statutory notices or warning letters was taken. Naas Town Council took in approx €8.200 in Litter Fines in 2009. The Council also now operate a “Name and Shame” Campaign where convicted offenders are publicly named in the local press.

### **Education and Awareness**

Naas has four Community Wardens who champion the Council’s fight against Litter. Naas Community Wardens operate a Litter Education and Awareness Programme in the schools that has been very successful.

The Community Wardens also provide an essential link between the Town Council and the Community. While one of their key roles is the enforcement of the Town’s pay parking system and the Litter Pollution Act, they also liaise with Residents Associations, the Tidy Towns Group, the local Gardai and businesses.

### **Parks, Playing Facilities and Playgrounds**

To date Naas Town Council has provided two playgrounds in Naas located at Monread and Ballycane. The range of play equipment caters for children of different age groups. Naas Town Council has also made available playing pitches at Monread Park and Ballycane.



## Housing

The Housing function of Local Authorities has developed over the years. While we are often considered accommodation providers, the Council now has a greater role in developing the life of housing estates. Naas Town Council at the end of 2009 had a housing stock of 321 houses that include a mix of single and family type accommodation. Naas has a total number of 409 on its Social Housing List as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The breakdown of applicants according to need is as follows:

4 bedroom accommodation	-	28
3 bedroom accommodation	-	104
2 bedroom accommodation	-	142
1 bedroom accommodation	-	135

### Future Developments/ Affordable Housing / Part V

Under Part V, developers are obliged to set aside 20% of their development for the purposes of social and affordable housing. This 20% can be determined in terms of land, units or in monetary terms. The downturn in the economic environment has had an adverse affect on planning applications in Naas. Naas Town Council has however continued to enter into discussions with developers on a number of Planning Applications to which Part V Social and Affordable Housing applies.

### Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour

Managing Local Authority Housing has become more challenging from a range of perspectives, in particular problems arising from anti-social behaviour. Naas Town Council is proactive in their approach to anti social behaviour and proceedings are pending on one case at the end of 2009. It is expected that this case will be before the courts early in 2010. Naas Town Council's Tenant Liaison Officer deals with tenant complaints on reports of anti-social behaviour. The Housing Staff are also involved in pre-tenancy training for new tenants.

Under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 the definition of anti-social behaviour has been extended to cover graffiti and damage to property. The Council are taking the opportunity to review the Anti Social Behaviour Policy.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a new initiative introduced to cater for the accommodation needs of persons who are in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months, and who have a long-term housing need. The scheme does not apply to asylum seekers or other non-nationals who do not have leave to remain in the State permanently, students and persons in receipt of rent supplement as a “back to work” incentive. The RAS Unit in Kildare County Council is implementing the scheme for Kildare County Council, Naas Town Council and Athy Town Council. The scheme was introduced to the Naas area in conjunction with Kildare County Council on 15 January 2007 and has provided eleven units in that time. There are an additional twenty-two properties pending inspection.

### **Private Rented Dwellings**

New minimum standards for private rented dwelling were introduced through the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The most significant changes to the legislation are the introduction of strengthened sanctions and a new definition of what constitutes a ‘proper state of structural repair’ for the purpose of the Housing (Standards for rented Houses) Regulations 2008. Complaints received by the Council will be referred to the Environmental Health Officer's (EHO) offices for investigation and subsequent action can be taken on foot of the findings of the EHO.

## Roads

### Improvement Works

A number of improvement works were carried out on the Naas roads and footpaths in 2009 at a cost of €510,261

Location	Works Description
Monread Pump Station	Wall
Hazelmere Estate	Remove some overgrown trees and replace damaged footpaths
Kingsfurze Avenue	Footpath outside no. 71
Ballymore Road	Continue footpath as far as roundabout on eastern side of road
Ballykane Hill	Patch repair works.
Fishery Lane	Patch repair works followed by regulation and re-surfacing.
Canal Road	Patch repair works from Abbey bridge to Thandy's Bridge
St. Michael's Terrace	Construct one-way and widen footpath
Tipper Road	Replace existing sub-standard footpath from Blessington Road to Roselawn
Monread Avenue	Continue footpath from Kerdiff to Don na Riogh
Harbour Area	Boundary fencing at rear of Gogartys
Sallins Road	Drainage improvement works fronting Hollywood Park
	<b>Special Block Grant</b>
Tipper Road	Patch repair works followed by regulation and re-surfacing. Plus install kerbed footpath alongside.
Monread Road	New footpath adjacent Woodies and replace footpath fronting the Ambulance Centre
St Conleth's Place	Remove trees and replace damaged footpaths

Location	Works Description
Ashgrove Estate	Remove some overgrown trees and replace damaged footpaths
Hillside Drive	Re-surfacing fronting 9, 23, 22, 20
	<b>Footpath Programme</b>
Monread Heights	Diagonal footpath across Monread Park
St Conleth's Place	Install dedicated parking on existing green area
Lakelands Estate	Remove overgrown trees and replace damaged footpaths
Mountain View Estate	Remove some overgrown trees and replace damaged footpaths
New Row	Replace footpath at rear of flower beds
Sarto Road	Replace section of footpath between 36-37
Ashgrove Estate	Replace kerbing parallel to Monread Avenue at Ashgrove Avenue
Craddockstown Road	Remove existing parking area fronting hospital and provide footpath in place. Just south of hospital entrance.
Lakes Area	Provide railings on pedestrian bridge
St Corban;s Cemetery	Provide new footpath adjacent Old Church
Woodlands Estate	Remove some overgrown trees and replace damaged footpaths.
	<b>Regional Roads</b>
Dublin Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath fronting Healy's</li> <li>• Remove existing pull-in area fronting The Gallops and replace with footpath</li> </ul>
Main Street South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace footpath outside Kalu</li> <li>• Replace the existing footpath from Court Hotel to Murtagh's Corner</li> </ul>

Location	Works Description
	Traffic Safety Measures
Dublin Road	Realign Maudlins Avenue junction so as to prevent right turns onto Dublin Road

### **Pay Parking**

The Council undertook a review of the Pay Parking Byelaws at the end of 2009. The draft byelaws went on public display during the period Wednesday, 2 December 2009 to Wednesday, 6 January 2010 with submissions invited up to the 20 January 2010.

### **St Michael's Terrace One-Way System**

Naas Town Council approved the one way system at St. Michael's Terrace at the November monthly meeting after the proposals were on public display from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009 to 3 September 2009 and submissions were invited up to the 17 September 2009.

## Naas Town Council - Local Elections 2009

### Spending & Donations

As required under the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999, the following list includes the aggregate election expenditure and aggregate donations in respect of each candidate:

#### Statement of Donations and Election Expenses at the Local Elections 2009

<b>Name</b>	<b>Own Resources</b>	<b>Other Resources</b>
Riognagh Bracken	€4,012.99	
Anne Breen	€149.95	€2,262.54
Willie Callaghan	€653.00	€1,637.45
Patricia Clear	€646	€3,924
Ger Dunne	€0	€2,242.54
Emer Mc Daid	€0	€2,806.49
Seamie Moore	€6,267.40	€0
Alan O'Kelly	€0	€3,379.99
Darren Scully	€0	€6,513.90
J J Power	€1,060.16	€170.10
Tiernach Cassidy	€4,401.93	€0
David Monaghan	€540	€0
Donal Corcoran	€2,648.30	€0
Paddy Behan	€600.00	€1,879.84
Pat McCarthy	€0	€3,462.06
Eugene Duggan	€4,284.16	€1,859.84